

UNIFORMS OF THE NSDAP

UNIFORMS • HEADGEAR
• INSIGNIA • OF THE
NAZI PARTY

Jeff Clark



This book is the first in depth published work in over twenty years on Third Reich Political Leaders uniforms and their regalia. Some of the finest items in the collecting community – uniforms, insignia, headgear, flags, banners and other items – have been assembled in this large format, all-color book. This book also explains the complicated levels and rank system so that the hobbyist can avoid the many pitfalls when adding these items to their collection. Period source material has been researched and translated here for the first time. Many high-level personality collectibles are pictured here for the first time ever, having been in private collections since 1945. This one of a kind book is a must have for any serious Third Reich collector.





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OF THE
NSDAP

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NAZI PARTY

Jeff Clark

Schiffer Military History
Atglen, PA

Acknowledgements

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Disclaimer

The author recognizes that Third Reich material has been reproduced since the end of the war, often by the same people who made it during the period, so even experts can be easily fooled. Every effort has been made to insure that each item displayed within is authentic and of the period. Many of the medals on the tunics are for display purposes only and unless noted, it should be assumed that they are not original to the tunics.

Author's Request

The author has chosen to specialize in this particular area of Third Reich material after collecting for over thirty-five years. He would welcome any input to enhance his knowledge of the subject for further revisions and additions to subsequent editions of this book. Please contact him at: jeffclark7@gmail.com; or by mail at, Jeff Clark, PMB 133, 1106 N. Gilbert #2, Mesa, AZ 85203.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my parents.

Book design by Robert Biondi.
Photography by Bruce Waters.

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this book is to give the researcher and collector photos and information about the rank structure, uniforms, and regalia of the Political Leaders during the Third Reich period.

The SA (*Sturmabteilung*, or Storm Troops) was the first uniformed organization of the NSDAP (*Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*). Many of their rank and uniform insignia were steeped deep in German history and tradition. The NSDAP was not the first to use the death head symbol, nor were they the first to use the swastika, and the oak leaves have long been a symbol of strength in German culture.

The *Führer*, or Leader, Adolf Hitler was the supreme and only leader who stood at the top of the NSDAP hierarchy. When Hitler came to power on January 30, 1933, his Political Leaders were not the uniformed "golden pheasants" then, which they would later become. Many of the rank insignia and uniforms were non-standardized. This would all change over the next few years and continue to change until 1945.

The NSDAP was the real controlling power in Germany during the period of 1933-1945. It possessed a complicated structure that paralleled and overlapped every function of the state. The only route to success in power ran through the party or one of the organizations connected with it. Party membership was an essential qualification for almost all positions in government, to include civil servants, teachers, judges and lawyers.

The purpose of the party was to educate and control the masses with their propaganda and system of networking information about what each person was thinking and doing, from the home all the way to the national level.

By the end of 1933, 25% of all party members were either civil servants or teachers. So many opportunists were joining the party, that Hitler banned further membership in May of 1933.

After the Rohm purge on June 30, 1934, the SS and the NSDAP emerged as the winners and continued to grow in power and influence. This purge was also felt within the Political Organization of the party. At the beginning of 1935, 19.8% of lower ranks (district leaders and below) were no longer in office.

Party membership was re-opened in May of 1937, but was limited to:

- Persons who held continuous membership in paramilitary organizations
- NS Women's League
- Functionaries of the German Labor Front (DAF) since 10-1-34
- Cell and Block Leaders who had held office since October 1936
- Leading HJ officials
- Individuals who had performed special services for the party

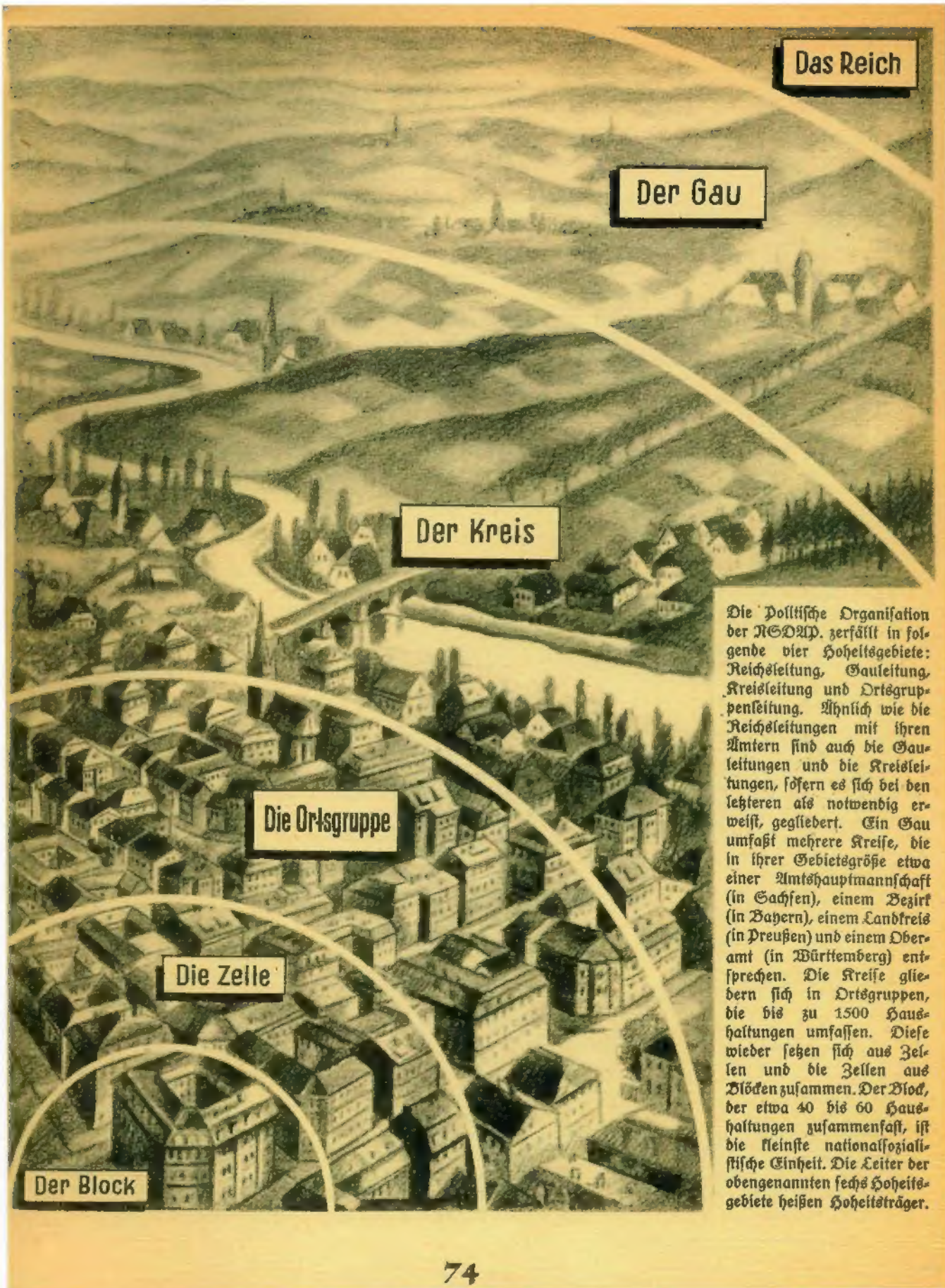
May 1937 membership stood at 2.4 million and by December 1938 had risen to 3.9 million. Unrestricted membership was opened May 1, 1939 to February 12, 1942 when it was permanently closed. After that time, new members were only to replace losses by attrition. By 1940, party membership was at 6.5 million.

Many Political Leaders at the highest levels served part time, and had full time jobs outside the party. At the end of 1942, the party had a total of 242,511 Political Leaders of whom 85,327 were full time positions. 15,711 of the full time PL were of military service age, but draft exempt. There was always a shortage of Political Leaders and it was still possible to become a trainee without being a member of the NSDAP.

Adolf Hitler never intended his party to be all inclusive and in fact felt that only about 10% of the population should be in the party, a figure which was never exceeded.

There were four main levels within the NSDAP party; the *Reich* or national level, *Gau* or state level, *Kreis* which would be equivalent to a county level, and the *Orts*, or local level.

By 1943, the party consisted of forty-three *Gaue*, 890 *Kreise*, 30,601 *Ortsgruppen*, 121,406 *Zellen*, and 539,774 Blocks. The political leaders of these levels were the "*Hoheitsträger*"; the "bearers of sovereignty", or party faithful.





Reichsleiter and Political Organizational Leader Dr. Robert Ley wearing post-1939 insignia. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

In addition to these four levels, there was the party court system which was the NSDAP judicial system established to review members violations, misconduct, and complaints. A system of party schools to educate party leaders was also established in 1936 called "Ordensburgen", or literally order castles.

Dr. Robert Ley was an early member of the party who served as the *Gauleiter* of Rheinland prior to Adolf Hitler appointing him chief of staff over the Party Organization and Reich Organizational Leader.

Dr. Ley was the person most responsible for the political leader's rank system and uniform designs, which came into effect after 1933. Prior to 1933, the first uniforms were very plain brown shirts with little or no rank identification.

Dr. Ley established the uniforms and regulations and compiled these into periodicals and books, the most quoted and referenced

one being the "*Organisationsbuch der NSDAP*", which was published in seven volumes from 1936 until 1943. Many people in the hobby today feel these books were strictly adhered to, but during the period these books were often referred to as "Ley's fairy tales", since so much of it was ignored. In fact, some political leaders instructed the people under them to ignore the book completely.

While Dr. Ley was responsible for the uniform design and regulations, the details of the manufacturing were under control of the "*Reichszeugmeisterei*" or RZM (national material control office). This was an organization (a Reich main office) established on April 1, 1929 to control and supervise the production and pricing of all Nazi Party uniform items. It was located in Munich and belonged to the task assignment of *Reichsleiter* Franz X. Schwarz.

CHAPTER ONE

RANK SYSTEM

This list shows the Political Leader rank structure 1932-1933 and their English translation:

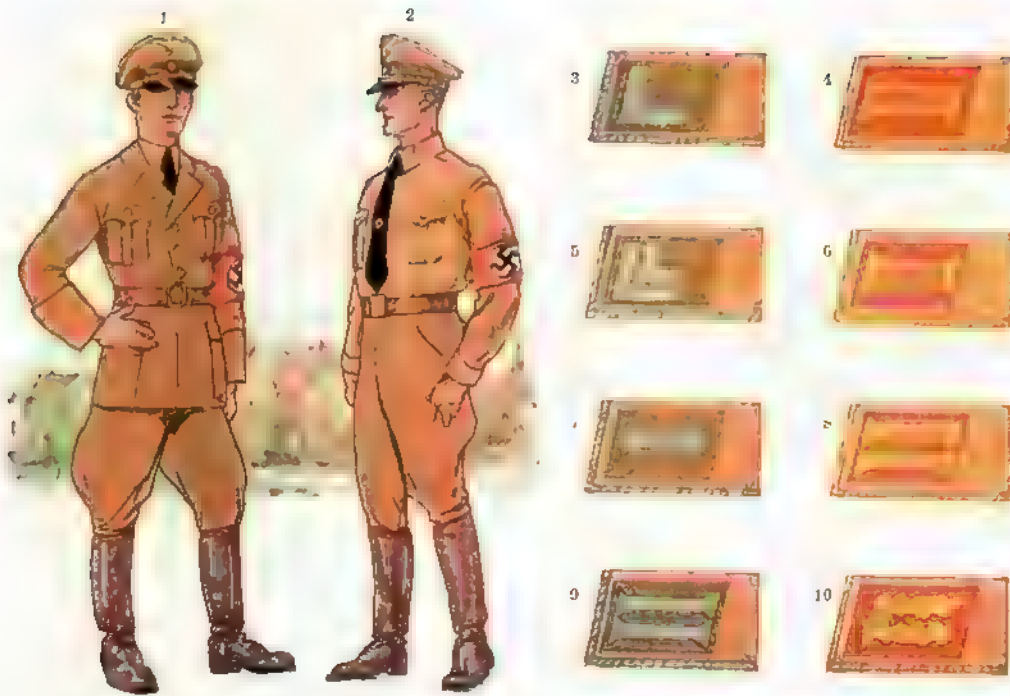
<i>Blockwart</i>	Block warden
<i>Zellenwart</i>	Cell warden
<i>Ortsgruppenleiter</i>	Local group leader
<i>Kreisleiter</i>	District leader
<i>Gauleiter</i>	Province leader
<i>Landesinspekteur</i>	State inspector
<i>Reichsinspekteur</i>	Reich inspector
<i>Reichorganisationsleiter</i>	Reich organization leader

This list shows the Political Leader rank structure from 1934-1939 and their English translations. Note that in 1936, additional ranks were added:

<i>Unterabteilungsleiter</i>	Assistant Department Leader
<i>Blockleiter</i>	Block Leader
<i>Abteilungsleiter</i>	Department Leader
<i>Zellenleiter</i>	Cell Leader
<i>Amtsleiter</i>	Office Leader
<i>Stuetzpunktleiter</i>	Base Leader
<i>Kreisamtsleiter</i>	District Office Leader
<i>Amtsleiter</i>	Office Leader
<i>Gauinspekteur</i>	Province Inspector
<i>Ortsgruppenleiter</i>	Local Group Leader
<i>Kreisleiter</i>	District Leader
<i>Stellvertretender Gauleiter</i>	Deputy Province Leader
<i>Gauleiter</i>	Province Leader
<i>Reichsleiter</i>	State Leader

1936 rank additions:

<i>Mitarbeiter</i>	Collaborator or Colleague
<i>Stellenleiter</i>	Department Leader
<i>Hilfsstellenleiter</i>	Assistant Department Leader
<i>Hauptstellenleiter</i>	Main Department Leader
<i>Zellenleiter</i>	Cell Leader
<i>Stuetzpunktleiter</i>	Base Leader
<i>Hauptamtsleiter</i>	Main Office Leader



- 1. Gauleiter. 3. Stadtwart.
- 2. Stadtwart. 4. Gauleiter.
- 5. Stellenwart. 6. Landesinspektor.
- 7. Ortsgruppenleiter. 8. Reichsinspektor.
- 9. Kreisleiter. 10. Reichsorganisationsleiter.

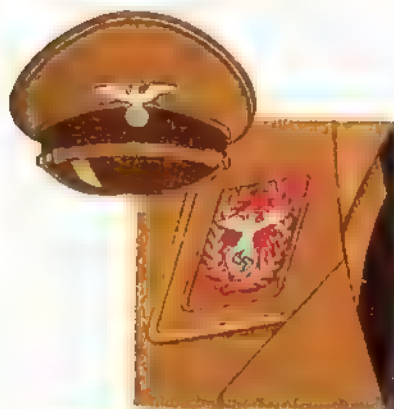
Period publication c.1933 showing early uniforms and tabs.

Stadtwart				Stadtwart am linken Arm. Sonst wie Amtswalter	
Stellenwart				1925 Verdienstabzeichen der Amtswalter und Stadtwalter	
Ortsgruppenleiter				Grattionsführer des Reichstages: Landesfarben im schwarzen Quadrat. Dienstanzug wie Landesinspekteur	
Kreisleiter				Grattionsführer (Stabverordneter): Stabswappen im schwarzen Quadrat. Dienstanzug wie Kreisleiter	
Gauleiter				 NSBO-Mitglied	 NSBO-Obmann
Landesinspekteur				 NSBO am linken Arm	
Reichsinspekteur				 Reichs- und Landtagsabgeordnete. Armbinde zum Dienstanzug	
Reichsorganisationsleiter				 Reichsorganisationsleiter linker Arm	

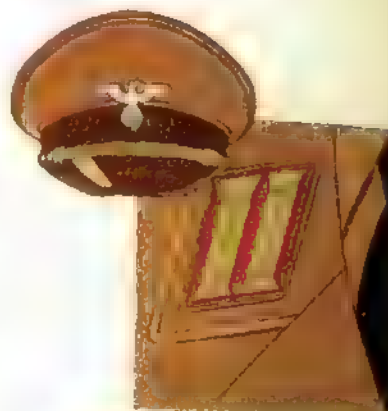
Period publication c.1933 showing early tabs and headgear

Reichsleitung

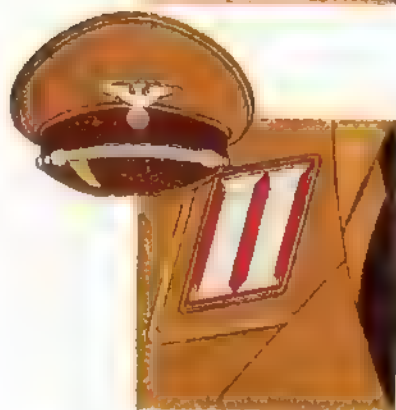
Spiegel: Karmesinrot
Paspelierung: Goldgelb
Mützenband:
Dunkelbrauner Samt



Links Reichsleiter:
Spiegel mit silbergestricktem
Hohelitzzeichen
Goldene Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4,6x6 cm



Rechts Amtsleiter:
Spiegel mit zwei goldenen
gestickten Gardelitzen
Goldene Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x7 cm



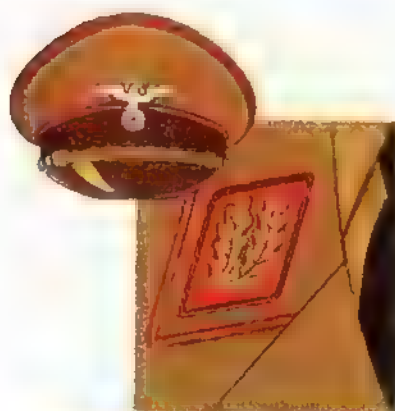
Links
Abteilungsleiter:
Spiegel mit zwei silbernen
gestickten Gardelitzen
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x7 cm



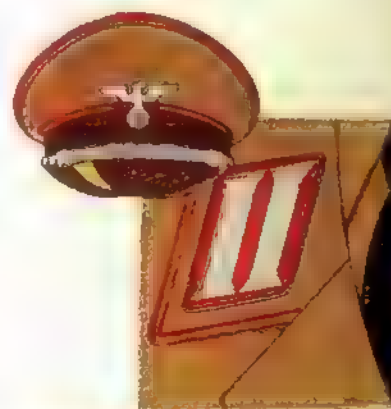
Rechts
Unterabteilungsleiter:
Spiegel mit zwei silbernen
Winkeln
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x5,6 cm

Gauleitung

Spiegel: Rot
Paspelierung: Rot
Mützenband:
Dunkelbrauner Samt



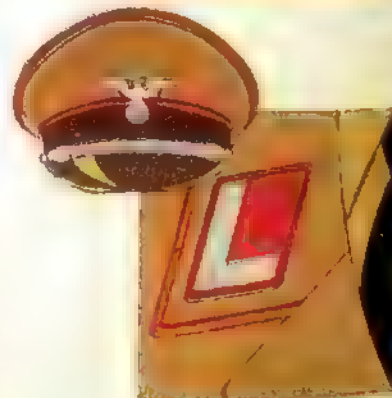
Links Gauleiter:
Spiegel mit doppeltem
goldenen Eichenlaub
(Stellvertreter ein Eichenblatt,
Goldene Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4,8x6,2 cm



Rechts Amtsleiter:
Spiegel mit zwei silbernen
gestickten Gardelitzen
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x7 cm



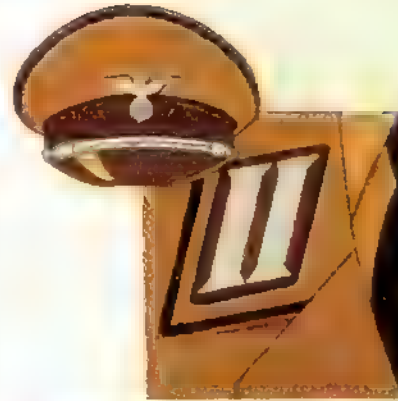
Links
Abteilungsleiter:
Spiegel mit zwei silbernen
Winkeln
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x5,6 cm



Rechts
Unterabteilungsleiter:
Spiegel mit einem silbernen
Winkel
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x5,6 cm

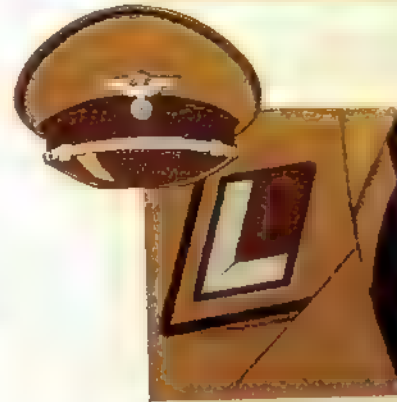
Kreisleitung

Spiegel: Dunkelbraun
Paspellerung: Schwarz
Mützenband:
Dunkelbrauner Samt



Links **Kreisleiter:**
Spiegel mit zwei goldenen
gestickten Gardellitzen
Goldene Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x7 cm

Rechts **Amtsleiter:**
Spiegel mit zwei silbernen
gestickten Gardellitzen
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x7 cm



Links
Abteilungsleiter:
Spiegel mit zwei silbernen
Winkeln
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x5,0 cm

Rechts
Unterabteilungsleiter:
Spiegel mit einem silbernen
Winkel
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x5,0 cm

Ortsgruppenleitung

Spiegel: Hellbraun
Paspellerung: Hellblau
Mützenband:
Hellbrauner Stoff



Links
Ortsgruppenleiter:
Spiegel mit zwei goldenen
gestickten Gardellitzen
Goldene Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x7 cm

Rechts
Amts- u. Stützpunktleiter:
Spiegel mit zwei silbernen
gestickten Gardellitzen
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x7 cm



Links
Zellenwart:
Spiegel mit zwei silbernen
Winkeln
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x5,0 cm

Rechts
Blockwart:
Spiegel mit einem silbernen
Winkel
Silberne Mützenkordel
Spiegelgröße 4x5,0 cm

Uniform und Rangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP



Plate from early book c 1936 showing rank and uniform insignia.

Dr. Ley began work on a new and final rank structure in early 1938. Promotions and ranks were frozen March 1939 in preparation for the new rank system, which was to be released later that year.

April/May 1939 the new rank and insignia were previewed by Ley and released for all to see. These new ranks became effective June 9, 1939, after Adolf Hitler approved them.



Dr. Robert Ley inspecting the new rank insignia circa early-1939



Dr. Robert Ley inspecting the new collar tab insignia circa early-1939



Dr. Ley inspecting the new uniforms circa early- 1939



Dr. Ley inspecting the new uniforms prior to them being introduced to the public

This list shows the final Political Leader collar tab rank structure from 1939-1945 and their English translations. Note that at this time positions such as *Reichsleiter*, *Gauleiter*, *Kreisleiter*, and *Ortsgruppenleiter* were now designated by the armbands and the collar tabs indicated the grade/level position within the rank:

Politischer Leiter-Anwaerter (nicht PG.) Political Leader Candidate (not a Party member)

Politischer Leiter-Anwaerter (PG) Political Leader Candidate, Party member

<i>Helfer</i>	Assistant
<i>Oberhelfer</i>	Senior Assistant
<i>Arbeitsleiter</i>	Work Director
<i>Ober-Arbeitsleiter</i>	Senior Work Director
<i>Haupt-Arbeitsleiter</i>	Head Work Director
<i>Bereitschaftsleiter</i>	Sub-Division Leader
<i>Ober-Bereitschaftsleiter</i>	Senior Sub-Division Leader
<i>Haupt-Bereitschaftsleiter</i>	Head Sub-Division Leader
<i>Einsatzleiter</i>	Detachment Leader
<i>Ober-Einsatzleiter</i>	Senior Detachment Leader
<i>Haupt-Einsatzleiter</i>	Head Department Leader
<i>Gemeinschaftsleiter</i>	Community Leader
<i>Ober-Gemeinschaftsleiter</i>	Senior Community Leader
<i>Haupt-Gemeinschaftsleiter</i>	Head Community Leader
<i>Abschnittsleiter</i>	Section Leader
<i>Ober-Abschnittsleiter</i>	Senior Section Leader
<i>Haupt-Abschnittsleiter</i>	Head Section Leader
<i>Bereichsleiter</i>	Zone Leader
<i>Ober-Bereichsleiter</i>	Senior Zone Leader
<i>Haupt-Bereichsleiter</i>	Head Zone Leader
<i>Dienstleiter</i>	Service Leader
<i>Ober-Dienstleiter</i>	Senior Service Leader
<i>Haupt-Dienstleiter</i>	Head Service Leader
<i>Befehlsleiter</i>	Command Leader
<i>Ober-Befehlsleiter</i>	Senior Command Leader
<i>Haupt-Befehlsleiter</i>	Head Command Leader
<i>Gauleiter</i>	
<i>Reichsleiter</i>	

***Sonderbeauftragter* - Special Representative**

Political leaders with special functions or duties could get the title “special representative” (*Sonderbeauftragter*) in their level of service – *Kreis*, *Gau* or *Reich*, but this was only possible if the *Reichsorganisationsleiter* gave his permission.

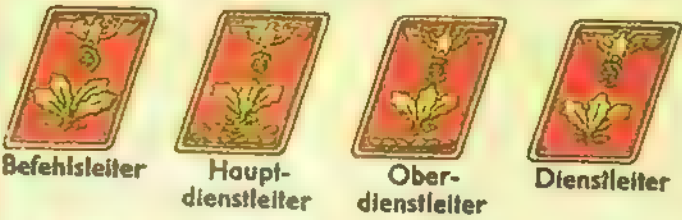
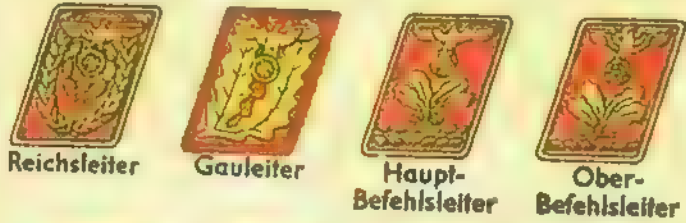
Tafel 23
URHEBER C. STARKER

MORITZ RUHL, KUNSTVERLAG, LEIPZIG 027

Dienstanzug u. Dienstrangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP.



Mütze und Dienstanzug
Bereitschaftsleiter
(Blockleiter)



Grundfarben der Spiegel:
 Ortsgruppe
 bis einschl. Abschnittsleiter..... hellbraun
 Kreisleitung
 bis einschl. Dienstleiter..... dunkelbraun
 Gauleitung
 bis einschl. Hauptbefehlsleiter u. Gauleiter... hellrot
 Reichsleitung
 bis einschl. Hauptbefehlsleiter u. Reichsleiter.. kormesinrot

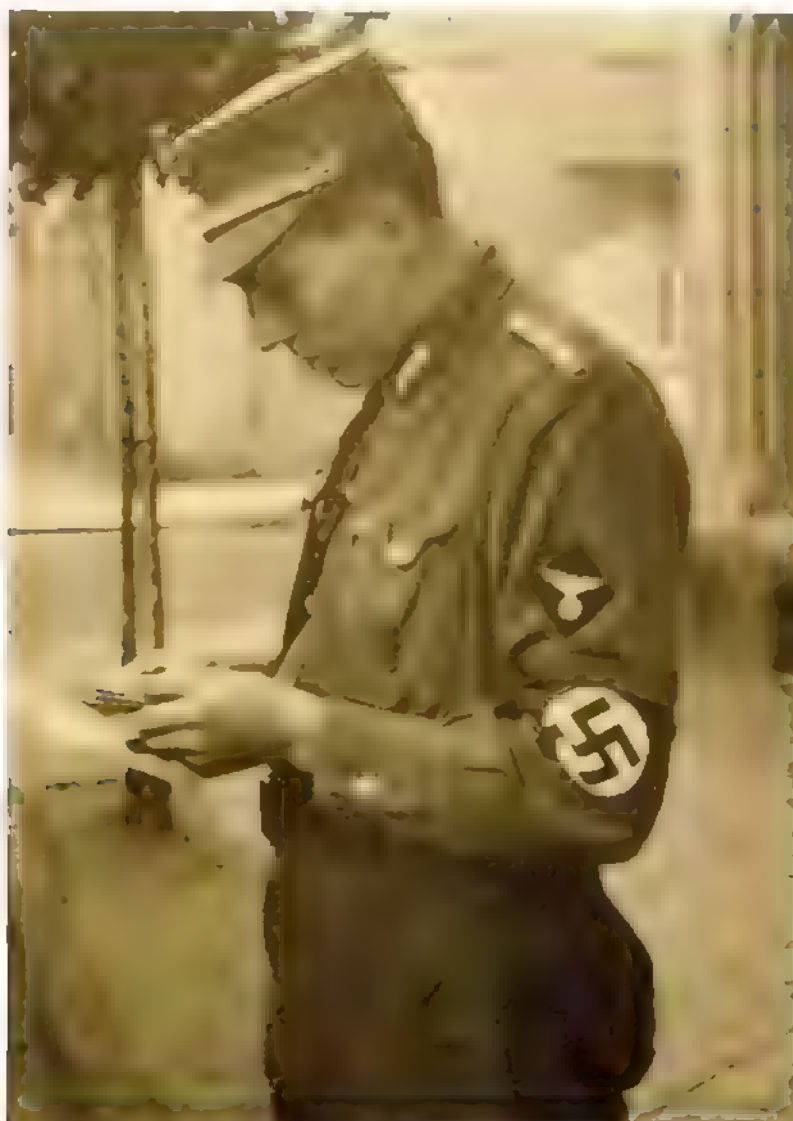
Kragen-, Mützen-, Spiegel- u. Armbindenpaspel
 Ortsgruppe..... hellblau
 Kreisleitung..... weiß
 Gauleitung..... dunkelrot
 Reichsleitung... goldfarben

Plate from period book c.1943 showing rank and uniform insignia.

THE ORTSGRUPPE

The *Ortsgruppen* level was the local level, or small towns, controlled by the *Ortsgruppenleiter* who was often the mayor. Within the *Ortsgruppe*, there were the Blocks with a *Blocksleiter*

as head and the *Zellen* level (or cells), with a *Zellenleiter* as head. A typical Block had thirty to forty households in it and above this level the *Zellen* consisted of four to six blocks.



Picture of an early Ortsgruppenleiter Political Leader of the Gautagung in Koblenz on October 22, 1933, at the Ortsgruppe Neuwied. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Pre-war service brown shirt for an Ortsgruppe Hauptstellenleiter; Note the silver buttons to match the silver tresse on the collar tabs.



Early Political Leader Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Pre-war service tunic for an Ortsgruppe Hauptstellenleiter. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Model 1939 service tunic for an Ortsgruppenleiter, with leather belt and 1939 pattern PL buckle



Close up of the wartime Ortsgruppenleiter tunic with Gemeinschaftsleiter collar tabs and Ortsgruppenleiter armband



Model 1939 service tunic for an Ortsgruppe Obergemeinschaftsleiter; with brocade belt and dress aiguillette



Side view of the Orts Obergemeinschaftsleiter tunic, with armband to denote the wearer as an NSDAP Ortsgruppenleiter



Dienstanzug mit Bluse
(ohne Pistole, da noch nicht verliehen)

Berechtigung zum Tragen: Alle Politischen Leiter

Dienstrang: Oberhelfer

Dienststellung: Leiter einer Hilfsstelle in der Ortsgruppe

Dienstmantel

Tragweise: Beim Marsch in geschlossener Formation und beim Tragen der Bluse (auch ohne Tornister) geschlossen zu tragen

Dienstrang: Helfer

Dienststellung: Mitarbeiter in der Ortsgruppe

tafel 6

Plate from 1943 'Organisationsbuch der NSDAP' book showing uniforms.



A double-breasted white dress tunic for an Ortsgruppenleiter with the rank of Hauptgemeinschaftsleiter. This tunic is named to the mayor of a town close to Hitler's birthplace.



Left side view of the white double-breasted tunic for Ortsgruppenleiter

Uniforms of the NSDAP

Below: Close up of the Ortsgruppenleiter armband

Right: Tailor's private maker label in the white double-breasted Ortsgruppenleiter tunic





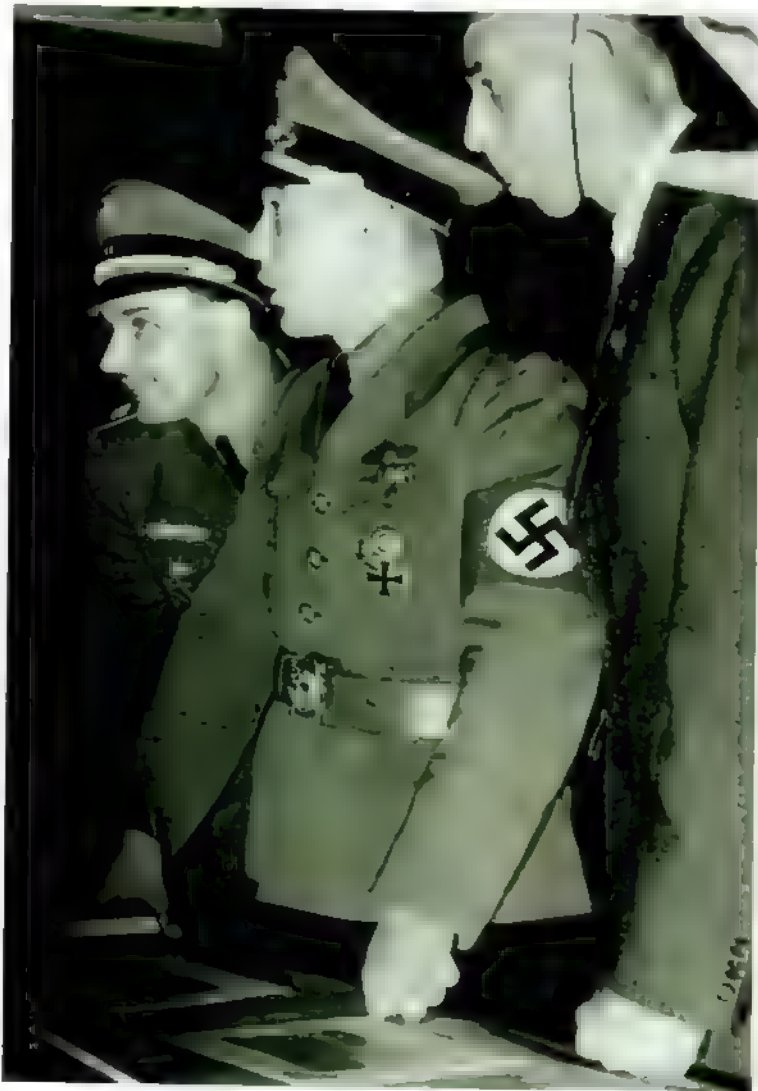
Gauleiter Sturtz consecrates a Political Leaders flag on June 23, 1939. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

CHAPTER THREE

THE KREIS

The *Kreis* level, or district, was similar to a county and was the lowest paid position within the party. This level was very important especially during the war years as the leader of the *Kreis*, the *Kreisleiter*, had vast powers over welfare money, food, and defense.

In 1943, the war powers of the *Kreisleiters* increased dramatically. They were given police powers and directed with rounding up deserters, foreign laborers, and other slackers.



Kreis level Political Leader wearing no collar tabs or piping. This picture shows post-1939 visor belt, and medals in wear, yet pre-1939 armband and no collar piping, which was contrary to regulations. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Pre-1939 brown sh rt service blouse for a Kreis Amtsleiter Buttons are silver to match the silver bars on the collar tabs



Side view of the Kreis Amtsleiter brown shirt. Note the pre-1939 black piping for Kreis level. Close up of the insignia on the early Kreis Amtsleiter blouse



Pre-1939 service tunic for an NSDAP Kreisleiter, with white tab and collar piping introduced for the Kreis level in 1939



HORST, KURT, MdR
Kreisleiter Erkelenz
Goldenes Ehrenzeichen, Blutorden



VOLM, KONRAD, MdR
Kreisleiter Geilenkirchen-Heinsberg
Goldenes Ehrenzeichen



SAAL, GABRIEL
Kreisleiter der Kreise Monschau und Malmedy



EICHLER, CUNO
Kreisleiter Bonn-Stadt und -Land

Many Kreis level Political Leaders continued to wear their pre-war insignia throughout the war years but with white piping in place of the pre-1939 black as is illustrated in this 1941 book, '20 Jahre Soldat Adolf Hitlers'

Close up of the pre-1939 Kreis leader tunic with the new white piping. Medal bar is original to the tunic.





Pre-1939 tunic for a Kreis level Spielmannszugführer or Band Leader Without collar tab and collar piping, the Kreis level is indicated by the dark brown "swallow's nests"



Polka musician c 1943 without collar piping which was contrary to regulations.



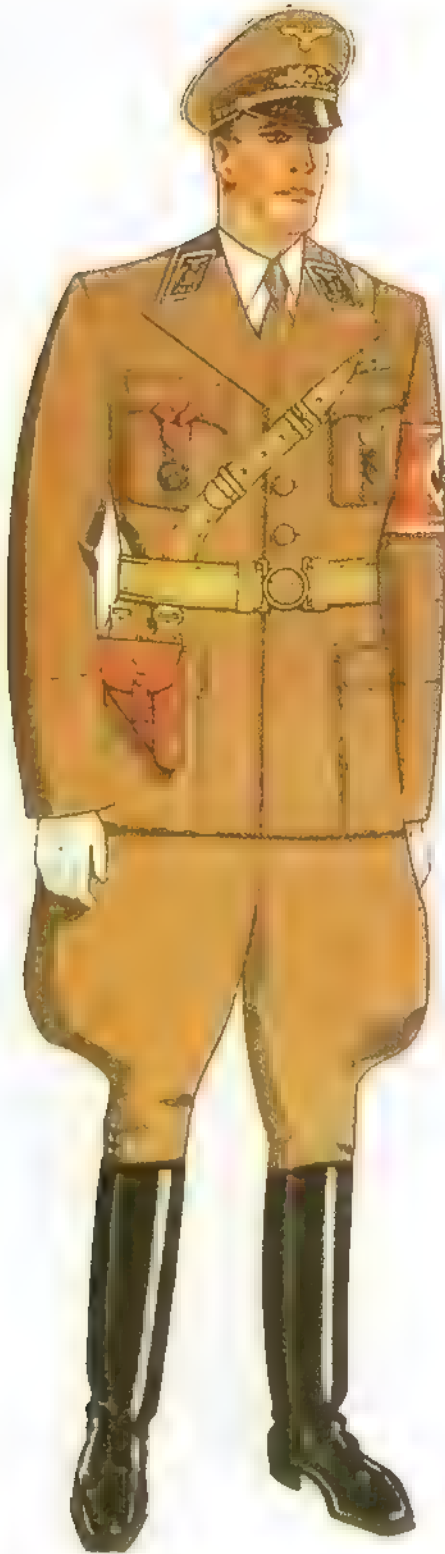
Side view of the musician's tunic. The swallow's nests with gold tressen are of the wartime pattern



Model 939 named Kreisler service tunic with the rank of Oberbereichsleiter. Note the armband sewn upside down. Courtesy of Bruce Beck.



Model 1939 dress tunic for a Kress Oberbereichsleiter, pictured with parade dress aiguillette and brocade belt with extremely rare brocade dress pistol support cross strap



**Großer Dienstanzug
mit hellbraunem Rock**

Berechtigung zum Tragen: Ortsgruppenleiter, Politische Leiter
vom Leiter eines Kreisamtes, einer Gauhauptstelle, einer
Kreisstelle aufwärts
Dienstrang: Haupt-Abchnittleiter
Dienststellung: Kreisleiter



**Großer Dienstanzug
mit weißem Rock**

Berechtigung zum Tragen: Ortsgruppenleiter, Politische Leiter
vom Leiter eines Kreisamtes, einer Gauhauptstelle, einer
Kreisstelle aufwärts
Dienstrang: Gemeinschaftsleiter
Dienststellung: Ortsgruppenleiter

Tafel 9



Parade dress aiguillette

Close up of parade dress aiguillette showing RZM tag and metal tips.



Close up of parade dress aiguillette showing button pin shoulder device





Side view of the Kreis Oberbereichsleiter tunic. The armband denotes the wearer's position as a Kreisleiter. Opposite: The very rare brocade post support ring. Note the metal holster suspension device and the metal Portulac leader eagle on the holster flap.





Above: Close up of brocade pistol support rig front.
Opposite: Close up of brocade pistol support rig rear





Model 939 rare double-breasted dress tunic for a Kreis Bereichsleiter; with the armband for NSDAP Kreisleiter
Courtesy of Bob Coleman



**Ausgehanzug
einreihig, hellbraun**

Berechtigung zum Tragen: Alle Politischen Leiter

Dienstgrad: Haupt-Bereitschaftsleiter

Dienststellung: Zellenleiter

afel 10

Ab: Ortsgruppenleiter, Leiter v. Arbeitsamtes, Sachhauptstelle, Reichsstelle aufwärts mit Feldbinde



**Ausgehanzug
zweireihig, mit hellbraunem Rock**

Berechtigung zum Tragen: Ortsgruppenleiter, Politische Leiter vom Leiter eines Arbeitsamtes, einer Gauhauptstelle, einer Reichsstelle aufwärts

Dienstgrad: Dienstleiter

Dienststellung: Leiter eines Hauptamtes in der Reichsleitung



Model 1939 Kreis level greatcoat or Mantel for a Kreisleiter with the rank of Bereichsleiter



Dr Josef Goebbels and Gauleiter Josef Grohe with Kreis political leaders. Note Grohe wearing post-1939 rank and insignia and the Kreis officials wearing pre-1939 rank and insignia.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE GAU

The *Gau* level, which was similar to state, had at its head the *Gauleiter*. There were over 150 men who held the rank of *Gauleiter*, during the existence of the NSDAP. The power at this level was immense. Several early *Gauleiters* had no experience in administrative matters and many were dismissed in disgrace over corruption and scandals within their area. The number of *Gaue* varied over the years; as of 1933 there were thirty-six, in 1935 this number was reduced to thirty-three, and as Austria and conquered territory was added to the Reich, this number increased to forty-three.

The *Gauleiters* ruled their areas like princes, often with total disregard for direction from above. Many even ignored or simply refused to follow orders from national leaders and even in some cases, from Adolf Hitler.

Each *Gau* had a Deputy *Gauleiter* and many intrigued against their *Gauleiters* (later, during the war, often at the direction of *Reichsleiter* Bormann). On August 23, 1939, Adolf Hitler decreed that no Deputy *Gauleiter* could ever become the *Gauleiter* in the *Gau* in which he served.



Wartime parade. Note the Political Leaders wearing pre- and post-1939 insignia.



Pre-1939 service tunic for a Gau Hauptstellenleiter. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Pre war service tunic for a Gau Oberabschnittsleiter with 939 pattern insignia

Close up of insignia on the Gau Oberabschnittsleiter tunic, showing the original bright red pre-war collar piping in contrast to the later wine red piping on the collar tabs and armband. Earlier Gau level tunics often retained the pre-1939 bright red collar piping when wartime insignia were added. The armband denotes the position of Leiter eines Amtes.





SCHMIDT, DR. KARL GEORG  MdR
Gauwirtschaftsberater, Oberbürgermeister der
Hansestadt Köln. Goldenes Ehrenzeichen



THIEL, ROBERT
Hauptbereichsleiter
Goldenes Ehrenzeichen



MERZENICH, TONI
Gauamtsleiter, Rassenpolitisches Amt, Gauinspekteur
Goldenes Ehrenzeichen



SCHMITZ, FERDINAND
Gauamtsleiter, Gauinspekteur
Goldenes Ehrenzeichen

Gau Köln-Aachen leaders c.1941, many shown to be without collar pip (ng of any kind)



WINKELKEMPER, DR. PETER
Gauamtsleiter
Oberbürgermeister der Hansestadt Köln



WINKELKEMPER, DR. TONI
Gauamtsleiter e. h.
Intendant des Reichssenders Köln



KÖLKER, JULIUS
Gauamtsleiter
Gauschulungsamt



BRANDES, ROBERT
Gauamtsleiter, Leiter des Gauheimstättenamtes
Bürgermeister der Hansestadt Köln



Gau Gemeinschaften service tunic belonging to Karl Buhler, who was a chief auditor in Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollern

ml

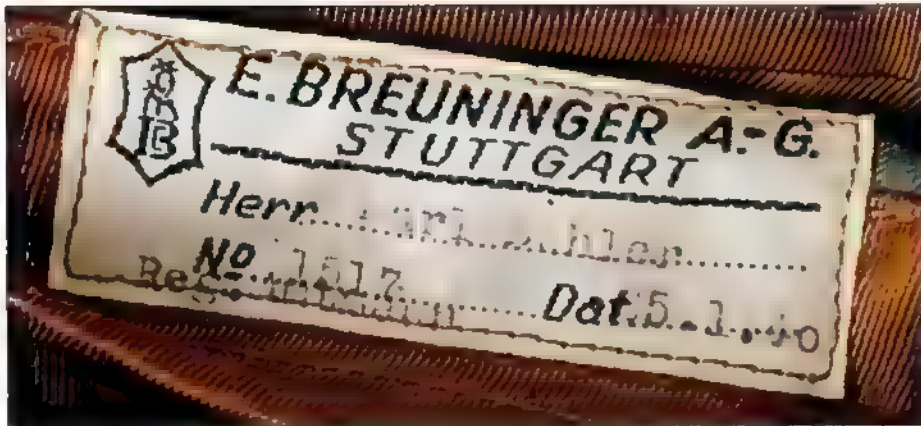
Fragebogen

für Abteilungsleiter des Gauamts für Kommunalpolitik.

~~für Kreisamtsleiter für Kommunalpolitik.~~

- 1.) Gau : ... Württemberg und Hohenzollern
- 2.) Kreis : ... Stuttgart
- 3.) Name : ... Bühler, Karl,
- 4.) Wohnort : ... Stuttgart, Straße ... Wannen -, Nr. 84 ..
- 5.) Geboren am 17.7.1894 ... in Schramberg ... Kreis Oberndorf ..
- 6.) Letzte Tätigkeit: Oberrechnungsrat bei der Ministerialabteilung für
Bezirks- und Körperschaftsverwaltung
erwerbslos
- 7.) Mitglied der NSDAP seit: Oktober 1932 ... Mitgl. Nr. 1 314 126 ..
- 8.) Letzte Parteitätigkeit: Vertrauensmann des Amts für Beamte und
Ratsherr der Stadt Stuttgart
- 9.) Wie zu Hause telef. zu erreichen: 735 14 bzw. 214 99
- (bei
- 10.) Telefonruf im Dienst Schlosszentrale 2408 oder 214 99
- von 8 bis 22 Uhr

Buhler's period information sheet for the Section Chief of the Gau office



Below: Close up view of Buhrer's Gau Gemeinschaftsleiter collar tab and ...
Stelle amband Top left: Wearer's name label in the Gau Gemeinschaftsleiter
Karl Buhrer Top right: Hand ta oring abe. in the Bürier tunic.





Bühler's wartime service greatcoat



Model 1939 named service tunic for a Gau Bereichsleiter Courtesy of Bob Coleman

Close up of insignia on the Gau Reichsleiter tunic with armband for Leiter eines Hauptamtes. (Note metal device collar insignia). Courtesy of Bob Coleman





Another tunic for a Gau Bereichsleiter named to the same man. Note the embroidered collar tab insignia on this tunic. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Close-up of the Gau-Bereichsleiter tunic showing embroidered tabs and armband for Leitender Hauptamtes. Note the FVKB ribbon in the buttonhole and the armband is sewn on upside down, a common tailor's error. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Reichsleiter Baldur von Schirach shown here wearing his armband upside down. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Model 1939 PL service tunic belonging to Kurt Schössler of the Gau Thünnen. He was the Gau educational leader and Golden Party badge recipient number 91043, having joined the party June 1, 1928



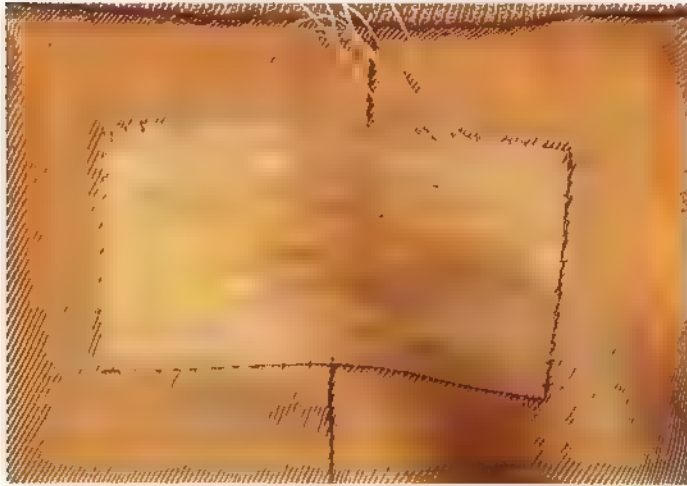
Close up of the Schossel's Gas-Bereitschaftertunic. Note metal collar tab fittings and armband for Leiter eines Hauptamtes. Note the pre-1939 red piping to tunic and the wine piped tabs indicating that he upgraded this tunic after 1939.



Wearer's name label in the Kurt Schössler Gau Berechtister tunic



Close up of post-1939 Political Leader 60mm girth buckle on leather belt



Tailor's label in the tunic of Kurt Schössler



Photo of Kurt Schössler from his party personnel file

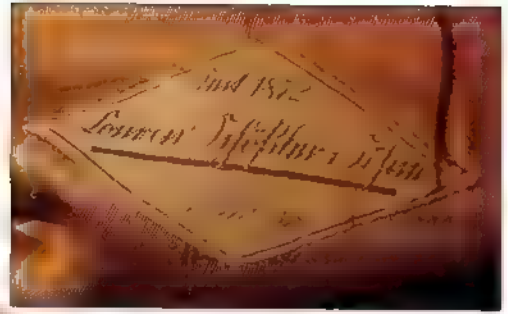


Schössler's service greatcoat for a Gau Bereichsleiter with armband for the position of Leiter eines Amtes.

The Gau

Below: Close up of the Schössler's Gau Bereich's leather greatcoat insignia. The collar tabs have metal fittings. Note this greatcoat has the same wearer name label as the tunic.

Right: Tunic's label in the Greatcoat of Kurt Schössler.





Double-breasted dress tunic for a Gau Hauptbereichsleiter with armband for Leiter eines Amtes. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Rare Mode 939 white service tunic for a Gau Dienstleiter with brocade dress belt. Note that this tunic has no collar piping, which is correct per the regulations.



Side view of the white Gau Dienstleiter tunic



Close up of post- 1939 post-war leader 52mm gilt buckle on brocade dress belt



Taylor's label in the Gau Dienstleiter white tunic



Gauleiter Albert Forster pictured wearing the white service tunic on July 17, 1942



Very rare Model 1939 double-breasted dress tunic for a full NSDAP Gauleiter



Gauleiter Josef Grohé pictured wearing the Mode 1939 double-breasted tunic



Left side view of the double-breasted Gau erter tunic

The Gau

Close up of the unique embroidered collar tabs and armband for NSDAP Gauleiter





Gauleiter Dr. Alfred Meyer

THE REICH

The *Reich* level, or national, was headed by sixteen *Reichsleiter*s who were in charge at the national level of departments such as Treasury, Propaganda, Press, Legal, Organization, and Party Courts.

On June 2, 1933 Hitler appointed the following sixteen men to *Reichsleiter*:

Rudolf Hess – Deputy to the *Führer* (promoted to Deputy *Führer* four months later)

Max Amann – Head of Party Publishing

Phillip Bouhler – Chief of Hitler's Personal Chancellery

Walter Buch – Chief Judge of the Supreme Party Tribunal

Walter Darré – Chief of the Party Agrarian Office

Dr. Otto Dietrich – Party Press Chief

Karl Fiehler – Chief of Party Municipal Policy

Dr. Hans Frank – Chief of the Party's Legal Office

Dr. Josef Goebbels – Chief of Party Propaganda

Wilhelm Grimm – Chief Second Chamber of the Supreme Party Tribunal

Heinrich Himmler – *Reichsführer-SS* (SS National Leader)

Dr. Robert Ley – Chief of Party Organization and ROL

Ernst Roehm – *Stabschef der SA* Party (SA Chief of Staff)

Alfred Rosenberg – Head of Party Ideology and Foreign Policy

Baldur von Schirach – *Reichsjugendführer HJ* (National Youth Leader)

Franz X. Schwarz – Party Treasurer

Between June and October 1933, three more men were added to the rank of *Reichsleiter*:

Martin Bormann – Chief of Staff to the Deputy *Führer*

Franz von Epp – Chief of the Party Colonial Office

Dr. Wilhelm Frick – Chief of the Party's Reichstag Faction

Several changes and additions were made later to include:

Viktor Lutze replaced Roehm after his death during the Night of the Long Knives in 1934

Konstantin Hierl – *Reichsarbeitsführer* RAD in 1936 (National Labor Leader)

Adolf Hühnlein – *Korpsführer* NSKK in 1938 (Corps Leader of the NSKK)

Arthur Axmann – *Reichsjugendführer* HJ in 1940 (National Youth Leader)

There were a few other possible *Reichsleiter* appointments due to death or disgrace, but these are not confirmed by period sources and will not be addressed.



Pre-1939 service tunic for a Reich Hauptdienstleiter. This tunic is believed to have belonged to Dr. Gerhard Wagner, NSDAP Reichsarztchef (National Physicians' Leader) 1934-1939. Note the Red Cross Decoration in the buttonhole, and the personalized addition of gold metallic piping to the armband. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis.



Close up of the left collar tab on the pre-war Reich Hauptdienstleiter tunic. Introduced in 1935, only five holders of this pre-1939 PL rank have been identified. *Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis*



Model 1939 rare double-breasted tunic for a Reich Bereichsleiter. Courtesy of Bob Coleman

Close up of insignia on the double-breasted Reich Bereichsleiter tunic, showing embroidered collar tabs and armband for Leiter eines Amtes. Courtesy of Bob Coleman





Opposite
Top: Reich level Oberbefehlshaber Marrenbach shown wearing a double-breasted tunic on January 29, 1942. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Bottom: Gauleiter Karl Florian shown wearing the rare Einsatz- und Dienstuniform tunic on the western front with Field Marshal Walter Model and Reich Youth Leader Artur Axmann. This picture was taken on November 30, 1944. Courtesy of LTC (Ret.) John R. Angola

Right: Very rare Political Leader "Einsatz- und Dienstuniform" (service and duty uniform) tunic introduced on March 23, 1944. Note the Blood Order ribbon concealed button front, plain NSDAP armband and lack of collar piping. Owner label inside the pocket named to Mutter.

Below: Close up of pre-1939 political leader 76mm gilt open claw buckle on leather belt.





Embroidered collar tabs on the PL Einsatz- und Dienstuniform for the rank of Reich Hauptbereichsleiter This tunic was taken from the owner (believed to be Dr Richard Müller) in Munich during the spring of 1945 by an American G.I. The capture letter states that Müller had such a bad attitude he was made to disrobe outside his headquarters surrendering everything



Reichsleiter Franz X. Schwarz's double-breasted brown NSDAP Political Leaders uniform, last pattern insignia. With Reichsleiter's Schwarz insignia. Danzig Cross and War Merit Cross First Class without swords. Note the Blood Order Ribbon on the first buttonhole. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



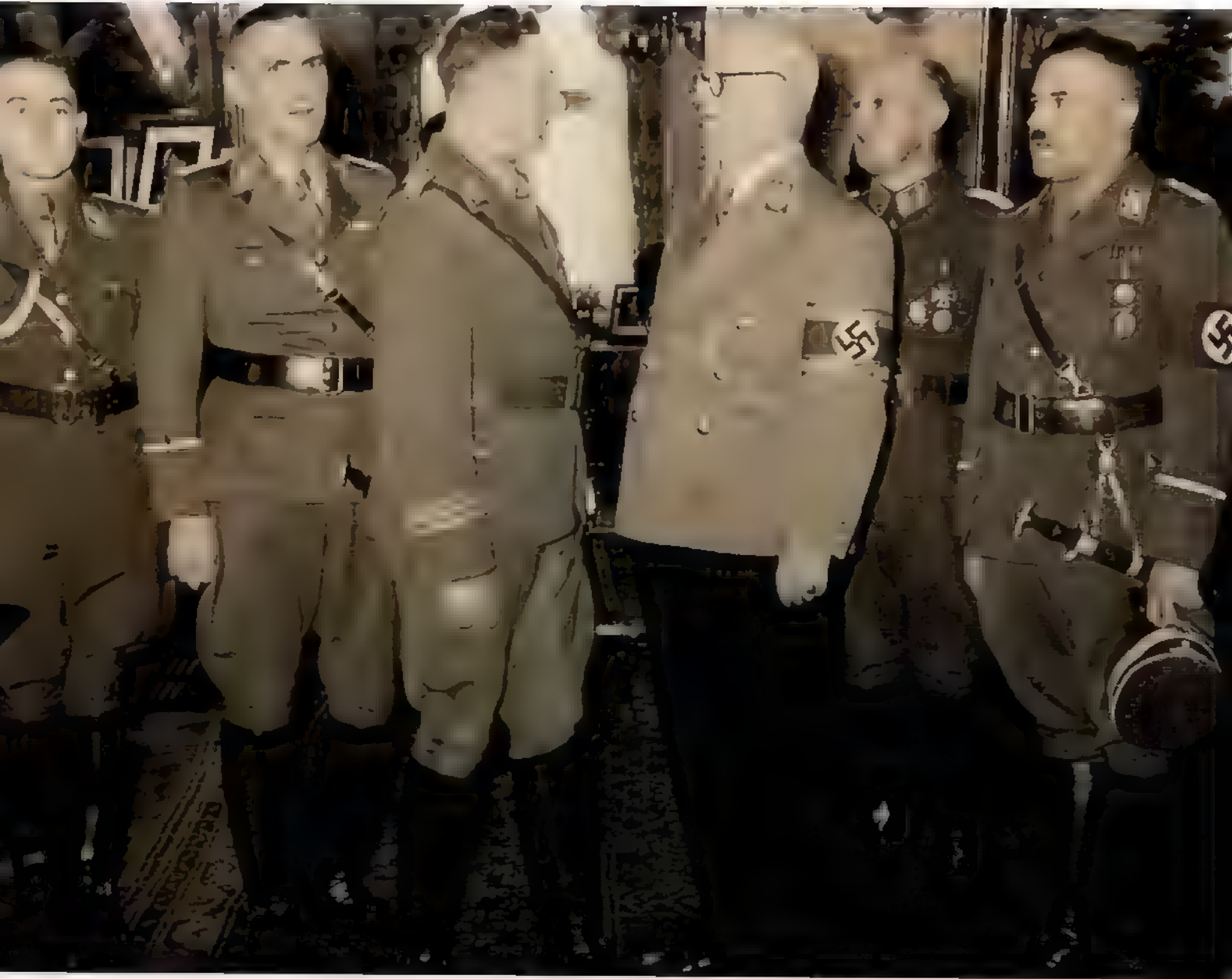
A dedicated studio portrait of Reichleiter Schwarz to another party official. Note the ribbon bar Schwarz was the NSDAP Party Treasurer and a very early member of the party, holding Golden Party badge number 6. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Reichsleiter Schwarz's Model 1939 private maker double-breasted uniform. *Courtesy of Bruce Beck*



Reichsleiter Schwarz's double-breasted uniform without medals. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



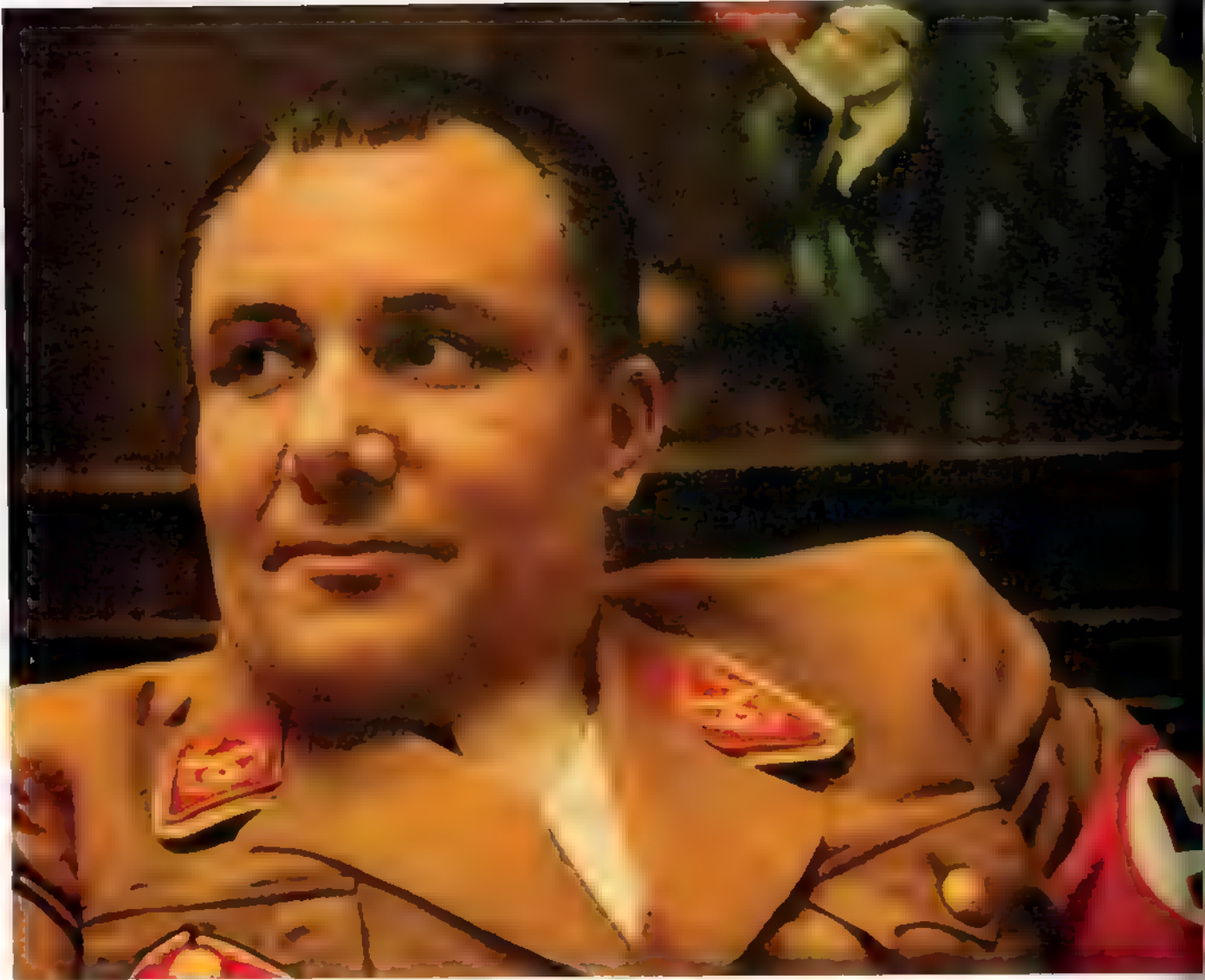
A press photograph of Reichsleiter Schwarz wearing a brown double-breasted NSDAP uniform. *Courtesy of Bruce Beck*

Close up view of Schwarz's tunic that shows the bullion amband and within the collar tabs. Courtesy of Bruce Beck





Reichsleiter Martin Bormann's Model 1939 white summer NSDAP double-breasted uniform. Bormann held many positions within the party to include Chief of Staff to the Deputy Führer, Reichsleiter in charge of the Party Chancellery, and Secretary to the Führer. *Courtesy of Bruce Beck*



Reichsleiter Martin Bormann, Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Opposite: Reichsleiter Bormann's white double-breasted tunic featuring the post-1939 insignia. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Close up view of Reichsleiter Bormann's white double-breasted tunic. Courtesy of [unreadable]





Pages 101-102: Two Model .939 white summer NSDAP single-breasted tunics belonging to Martin Bormann. Note the yellow piping which is correct for this style tunic. These tunics were found towards the end of the war by American GIs. *Courtesy of Jason Burmeister*



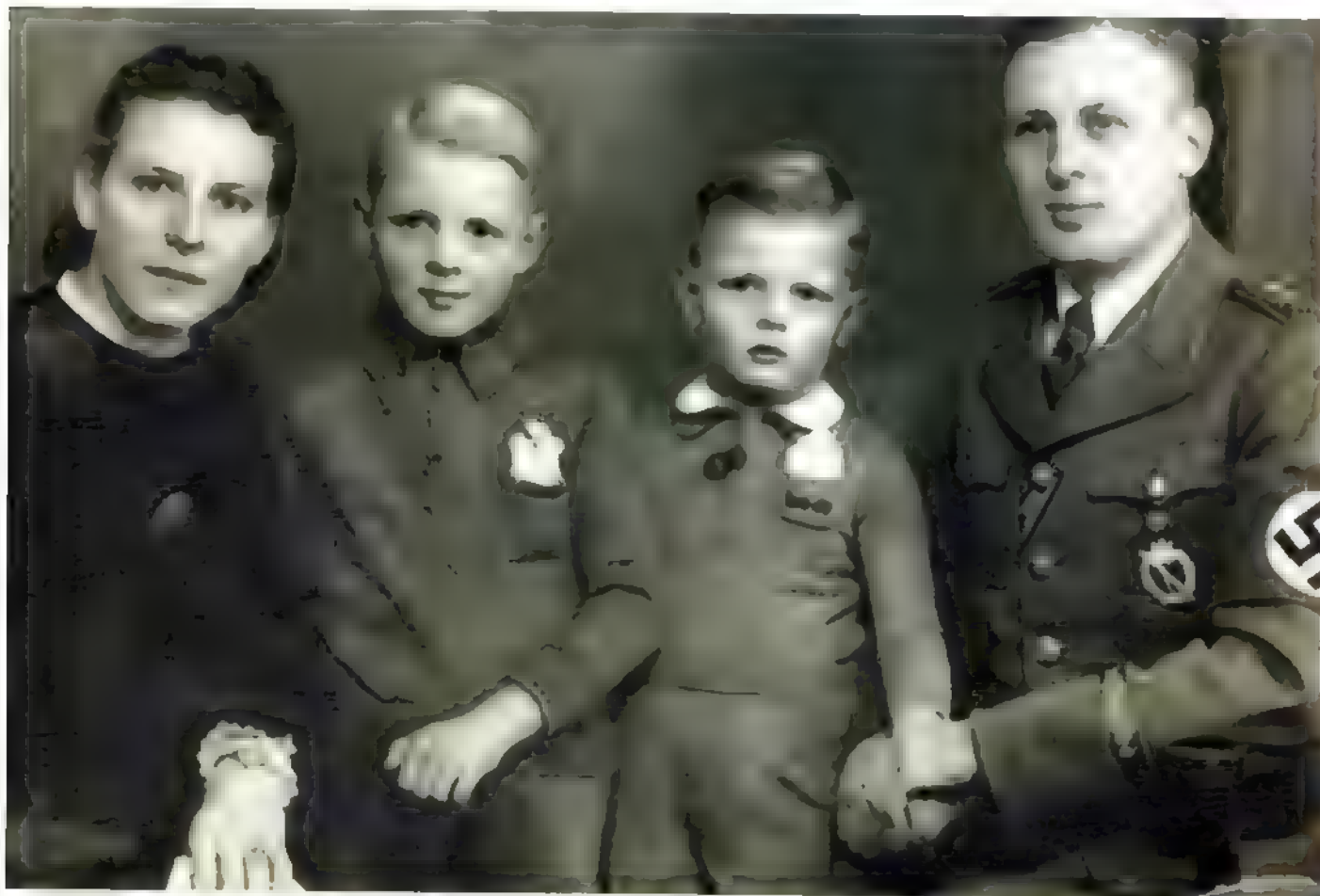
NS SCHOOLS AND PARTY COURT

Dr. Robert Ley set up the *Ordensburgen* school system within the party. These facilities were built with German Labor Front (DAF) funds and gifted to the party. Hitler formally accepted the first school on April 24, 1936.

Ley had a hard time filling these schools initially and people within the party looked on appointments and enrollment as a career dead end. This attitude did not change until after war broke out and Political Leaders were suddenly needed in the conquered territories.

The Party Courts were set up to arbitrate and rule on internal party cases and disputes. Since Adolf Hitler had the final say on all matter, the courts eventually lost much of their ability to function effectively.

A directive on August 21, 1944 all but eliminated the functions of the Party Courts. This stated that *Gauleiters* and *Kreisleiters* could handle all except serious disciplinary cases on their own authority.



NS higher leader of the Ordensburg Krössinsee school pictured with family. Note "Krössinsee" cuff title. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Pre 1939 service tunic for a student at the NSDAP Ordensburg Vogelsang. Silver buttons indicate pre-war usage

Close up of the Vogesang student's tunic. Note the Reich level yellow collar piping and shoulder boards with copper colored braid on yellow.





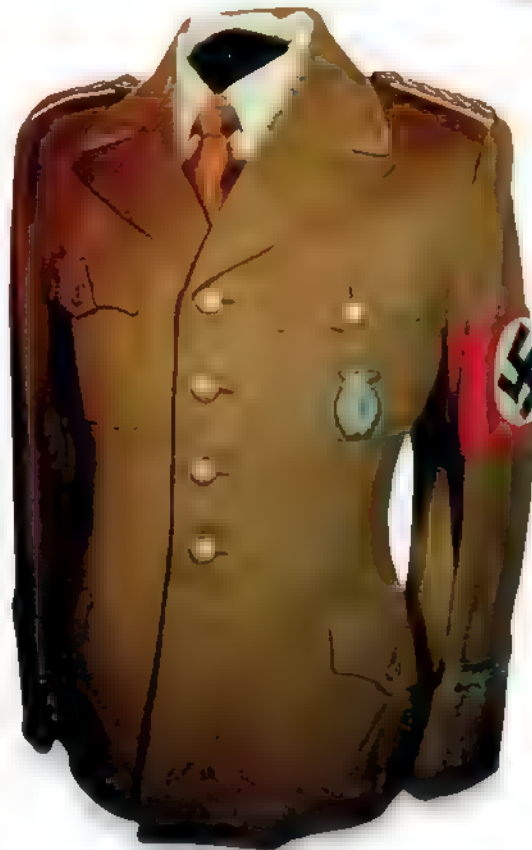
All Ordensburg tunics were piped in yellow; these being Reich level institutions.



Above Pre-1939 greatcoat for an upper class trainee at the NSDAP Ordensburg-Sonthofen. Note the silver buttons and single shoulder board pip. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Top right Wartime service tunic for a Führeranwärter of the NSDAP Ordensburg-Krossinsee. The sleeve eagle indicates the wearer was a functionary of the RMBO (Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories). Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Right Wartime service tunic for a senior instructor at the NSDAP Ordensburg-Vogelsang. Note the Blood Order ribbon and general's style shoulder boards (intertwined copper brown and silver cord). Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Various Ordensburg shoulder boards and cuff ties (courtesy of Clyde R. Davis)





Named tunic for teacher or administrator in the Reichslager für Beamte (in Bad Tölz). Note the special Tyre-Rune collar tabs. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Another view of this rare tunic. This NS School was for civil servants who were to be educated in the ways of the party. In other words, an institution for the enforced political conformity of civil servants in the Third Reich. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Cuff title on tunic, "Stellv. d. Führers Reichslager" Courtesy of Bob Coleman



View of shoulder board and collar tab. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Reichsleiter and Chief Judge of the Supreme Party Court Walter Buch. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Service blouse (brown shirt) for a senior Richter am Obersten Parteigericht (Judge on the Party Supreme Court).
Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Close up of collar tab for Richter am Obersten Parteigericht. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



1939 issue Party Court cuff ties for Oberstes Parteigericht (Supreme Party Court) and Kreisgericht (Kreis Court). Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

CHAPTER SEVEN

HEADGEAR

Prior to 1933, headgear was very non-standardized, with many Political Leaders wearing SA style Kepis. Visor caps were introduced in 1933 and they continued to be modified and changed up until 1939, when the new uniforms were introduced.



A very early pattern NSDAP political leader's kepi. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Gau leader of Manfranken Dr Otto Heimuth shown wearing an early visor Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



A first pattern NSDAP Orts level visor hat, note the plain brown hatband. *Courtesy of Bob Coleman*



A very early pattern NSDAP Orts level visor hat with metal cockade and soft leather visor. *Courtesy of Bob Coleman*

An early pattern NSDAP Orts level visor hat with metal cockade. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Transitional Orts visor cap with silver colored insignia (including a 1939 pattern wreath) for lower level Orts Political Leaders who continued to wear pre-1939 insignia after that time. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



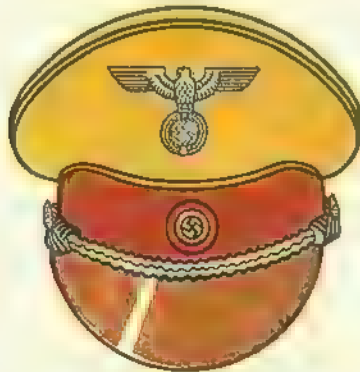
1939 pattern Orts level visor cap



Side view of the Orts level visor cap.

Politische-Leiter-Mützen

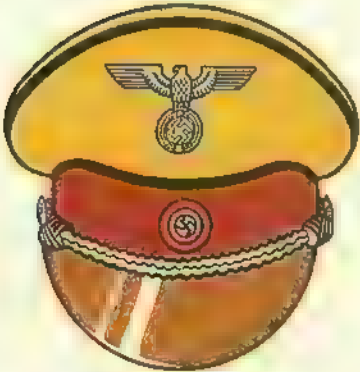
Mützenkordel und Knöpfe in Gold oder Silber je nach Ausführung der Spiegel



Reichsleitung



Gauleitung



Kreisleitung



**Ortsgruppen-
oder Stützpunktleitung**

Tafel 5

936 pattern visor cap for Kreis level, with black piping and silver eagle



Left side view of the early Kreis level visor cap

Headgear

A transitional pattern NSDAP Kreis level visor hat with back piping with the last pattern insignia applied to the front. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Reich Hauptamtsleiter Simon with other Political Leaders in Rome on June 27, 1939 shown wearing the pattern 1939 visors. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

1939 pattern Kreis level visor cap



Side view of 1939 pattern Kreis level visor cap.

Headgear



939 pattern Kreis level visor hat with an embroidered wreath that was then applied onto the hatband. Note the bullion embroidered cap wreath was worn only with embroidered collar tabs (Abschnitts enter rank and above). *Courtesy of Bruce Beck.*



1939 pattern Kreis level visor hat with the wreath directly embroidered onto the visor hatband. *Courtesy of Bruce Beck.*

Uniforms of the NSDAP

Side view Kreis level visor. Note it is very rare to find direct embroidered visors.
Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Below: Gau leader Franz Hofer of the Gau Tirol-Vorarlberg shown wearing a pattern 1939 Gau level visor. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis





Gauleiter Dr. Hugo Jury of the Gau N ederdona, shown wearing a pre-1939 pattern Gau visor. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



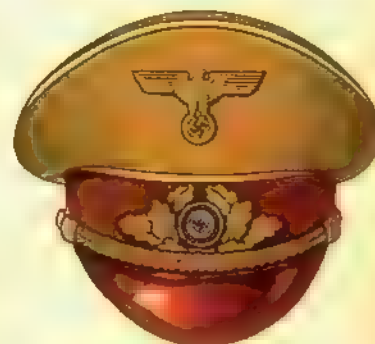
**Politische-Leiter-Mütze
in der Ortsgruppe**



**Politische-Leiter-Mütze
im Kreis**



**Politische-Leiter-Mütze
im Gau**



**Politische-Leiter-Mütze
im Reich**



**Politische-Leiter-Mütze in Weiß
(Paspel nur am Mützenband)**



**Feldriemen
60 mm breit**



**Feldbinde
goldfarben gewirkt
52 mm breit**

Tafel 26

Bookplate from 1943 "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" showing headgear

Headgear

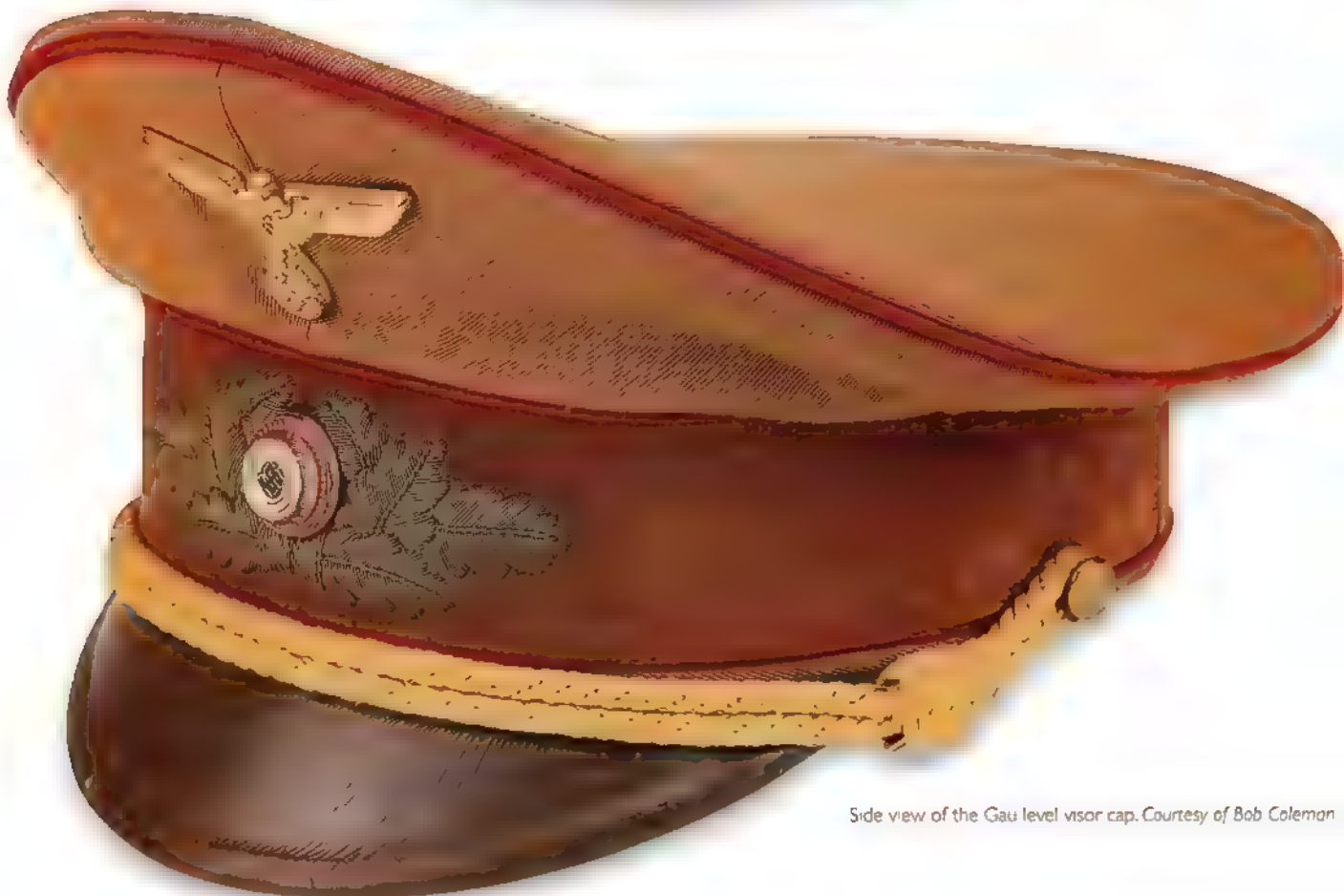
939 pattern Gau level visor cap



Side view of 1939 pattern Gau level visor cap.

Uniforms of the NSDAP

Gau level visor hat with a wreath directly embroidered into the hatband. Note the bull on embroidered cap wreath was worn only with embroidered PL collar tabs (Abschnittsleiter rank and above). Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Side view of the Gau level visor cap. Courtesy of Bob Coleman

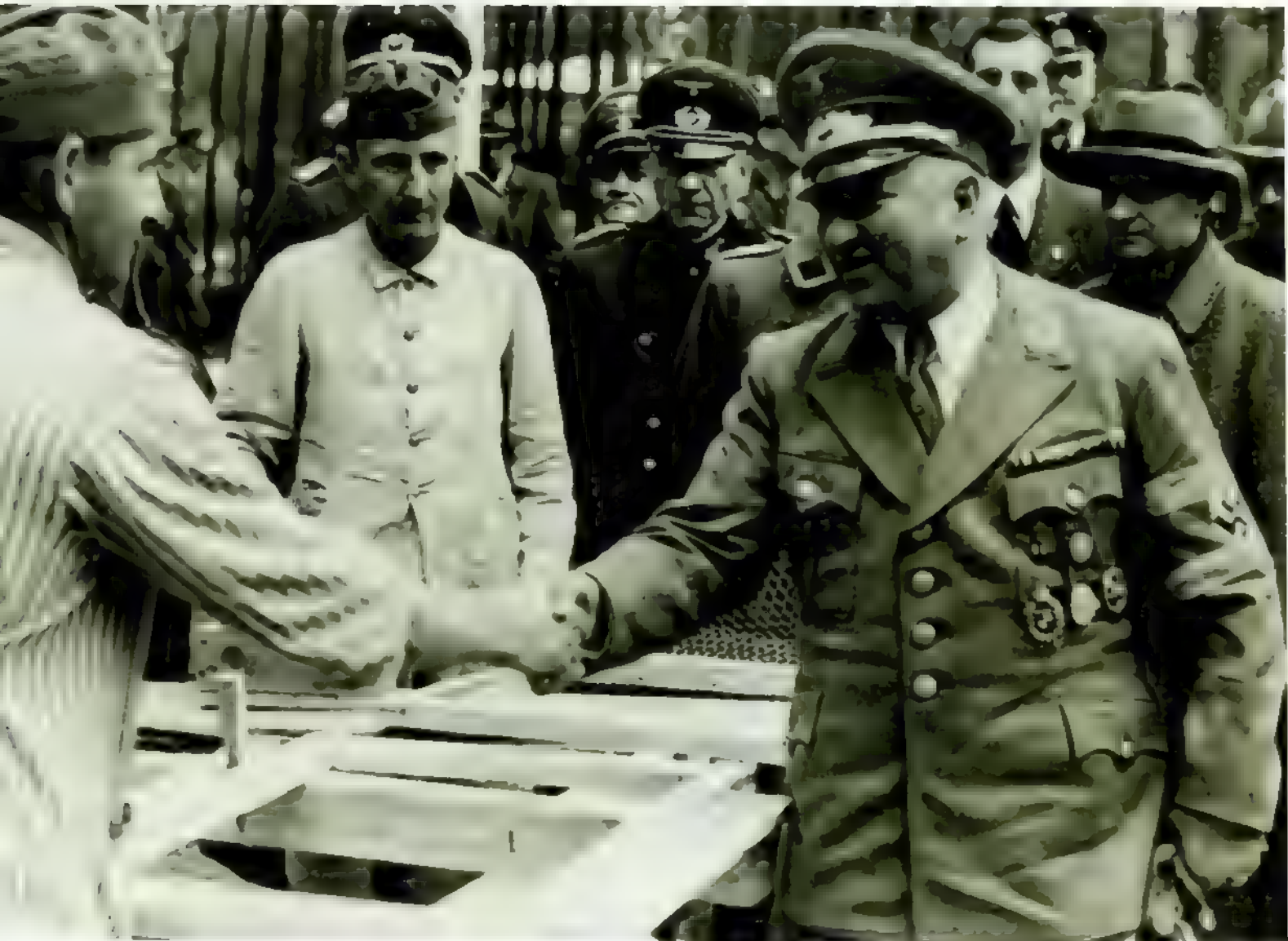


Above Deputy Gauleiter Schach of Berlin shown wearing an embroidered wreath pattern 1939 Gau level visor cap on May 23, 1944. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Right 1936 pattern Reich level visor cap. Courtesy of Richard Horton







Dr Robert Ley wearing 939 pattern Reich level visor cap on October 26, 1943 *Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis*

Opposite

Top: 1939 pattern Reich level visor cap with medals wreath *Courtesy of Bob Coleman*
Bottom: Side view of Reich level visor cap *Courtesy of Bob Coleman*



Above: 1939 pattern Reich level visor cap. *Courtesy of Richard Horton.*

Opposite

Top: Pattern 1939 visor cap for Reich level. Note the bullion embroidered cap wreath was worn only with embroidered collar tabs (Abschnittsleiter rank and above) This visor belonged to the Political Leader whose Einsatz- und Dienstuniform tunic was previously pictured.

Bottom: Side view of the visor cap for senior grade Reich level Political Leaders.





Very rare pattern 939 Reichsleiter white summer visor Note the gold metallic piping at hatband indicates the highest rank of Reichsleiter Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Below Reichsleiter Dr Walter Funk shown wearing the white summer visor on August 12, 1940



Headgear



Side view of the Reichsleiter white summer visor. White piping to top of visor cap is correct. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Below: Dr. Josef Goebbels with an unidentified Kreisleiter shown wearing the pattern 1939 white summer visor on September 4, 1941. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis





Above: A pattern M-43 political leaders hat with yellow piping
Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Dr Robert Ley shown wearing the M-43 style Political Leaders cap.

Headgear



Pre-1939 visor cap for Party Court officials as worn by a President of a Gaugench, Kreisgericht, or Ortsgench, or by a Chamber President of a Gau or Kreis Court. Note the dark royal blue piping. Right Side view of Party Court visor cap. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Pre-1939 field or overseas cap for Orts level. Note the 1936 pattern silver metal Political Leader cap eagle

Uniforms of the NSDAP

An early field or overseas cap for Gau level. Note the embroidered 1931 pattern cap eagle and 1935 pattern enameled cockade



Three variations of Political Leaders field or overseas caps. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



PENNANTS AND FLAGS

The party faithful leaders (the "*Hoheitsträger*") had vehicle pennants, typically on each side of the front fender, which they displayed while driving anywhere on party business. The driver side (left) pennant was the NSDAP swastika while the passenger side (right) was the level within the party and later (post-1939) the position and rank indicator as well.

The Party Faithful Leaders had a pre-1939 style vehicle pennant and two post-1939 styles. The pre-1939 and the early post-1939 style had Gothic letters, while the late or last style had block letters.



A Signal magazine article circa August of 1942 shows vehicles parked outside Dr. Josef Goebbels' ministry building. Note the Gau level, Deputy Gau leader pennant and party pennant on the vehicle in the foreground.



The Signal magazine picture also shows this unknown pennant on the vehicle in the background. This pennant is believed to be Martin Bormann's vehicle pennant, as head of the Party Chancellery. Courtesy of Steve Wolfe



Left fender vehicle pennant for lower level Political Leader, in protective celluloid cover.



Left fender vehicle pennant for lower level Political Leaders, in protective celluloid cover.

Left fender vehicle pennant for senior level Political Leaders, in protective celluloid case



Left fender vehicle pennant for senior level Political Leaders. Note the fender pole pole top, and mounting hardware



Post-1939 vehicle pennant for an Ortsgruppenleiter.



Post-1939 pattern metal vehicle pennant for an Ortsgruppenleiter. Courtesy of Richard Horton.



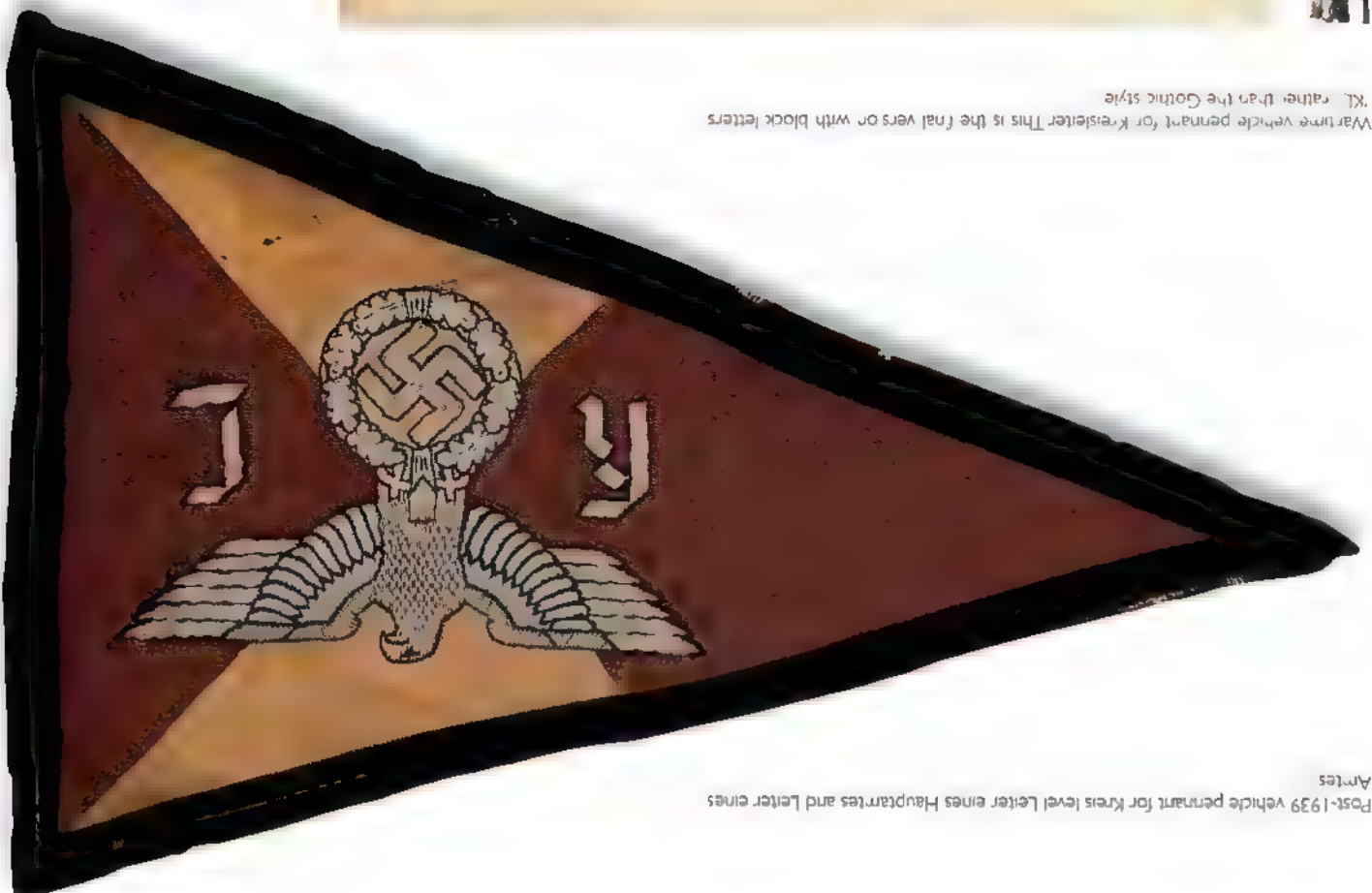
Pre-1939 vehicle pennant for Kreisleiter



Metal variant of a wartime vehicle pennant for Kreis level Leiter eines Hauptamtes and Leiter eines Amtes



Warime vehicle pennant for Kreisleiter This is the final vers on with block letters 'KL' rather than the Gothic style



Post-1939 vehicle pennant for Kreis level Leiter eines Hauptortes and Leiter eines Ortes



Metal variant matched pair of wartime vehicle pennants for a Kreisleiter in the final pattern.



Pre-1939 vehicle pennant for Gau level Amtsleiter and Stellvertretender Gauleiter

Post-1939 vehicle pennant for Gau Leiter eines Amtes. Courtesy of Dan Tarkenton



Pre-1939 vehicle car pennant for a Gauleiter in protective celluloid cover



Right: Pre-1939 vehicle car pennant for a Gauleiter without protective celluloid cover. Courtesy of Richard Hortor.

Below: Pre-1939 Gauleiter vehicle pennant in use.



Post-1939 vehicle pennant for Gau level Leiter eines Hauptamtes (final pattern with block letters "GL"). Courtesy of Bob Coleman



Post-1939 pattern metal vehicle pennant for Gau level Leiter eines Hauptamtes. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Post-1939 vehicle pennant for Stellvertretender Gauleiter (earlier version with Gothic letters "GL").



A set of veteran acquired post-1939 (early version) Gauleiter vehicle pennants. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Note the gold wire embroidery on the Gauleiter vehicle pennant. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Post-1939 vehicle pennant for Gauleiter, in protective celluloid cover

Post-1939 pattern Gauleiter pennant. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Post-1939 early style vehicle pennant/plaque for Gauleiter; painted version on metal plate. These were often used on vehicle bumpers and reportedly also used on stands to denote an area where the Gauleiter would be or was speaking





Reichleiter Walter Darre at his vehicle with pre-1939 Reichleiter vehicle pennant displayed. *Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis*



Pre-1939 vehicle pennant for Reich level Hauptdienstleiter, Hauptamtsleiter, or Amtsleiter. *Courtesy of Bob Coleman*

Pre 1939 Reichsleiter vehicle pennant. Courtesy of Richard Horton.



Very rare post-1939 Reich level vehicle pennant for Leiter eines Oberamtes or Leiter eines Hauptamtes. Courtesy of Richard Horton.



Extremely rare post-1939 Reichsleiter vehicle pennant
Courtesy of Richard Horton



Post-1939 late style metal vehicle bumper plate for a
Reichsleiter. *Courtesy of Richard Horton*



Right Car pennant for Leiter der Deutsche Arbeitsfront (leader of the German Labor Front/DAF), used only by Reichsleiter Dr. Robert Ley
Courtesy of Clyde R Davis

Below Picture of Dr Robert Ley in his vehicle Note his Reichsleiter pennant on the right fender and his personal DAF pennant on the left fender
Courtesy of R. James Bender Publishing





Alte Garde (Old Guard or original members) vehicle pennant as used on touring buses when these members traveled the country to promote the party. *Courtesy of Dan Torkinton*



Close up of the Ate Garde pennant. Very rare vehicle pennant and only one known to exist at this time. Courtesy of Dan Torkator.



Política Leader vehicle pennant pole top. Courtesy of Dan Tarkinton



Period pictures of the unique Arie Garde touring buses with pennants in view. Courtesy of Dan Tarkinton



NSDAP flag (Hoheitsfahne) for Ortsgruppe Regensburg 12. Courtesy of Bob Coleman



NSDAP flag from the town of Coburg. Note the early pattern static swastika. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



The Labor (DAF) Front flag from the town of Coburg. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Top left: First pattern pole top (final) for the Hohertsfahnen der NSDAP (flags of the Political Leadership). *Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis*

Above: First pattern pole tops visible as unidentified Deputy Gauleiter speaks

Left: Second pattern flag pole top (final) for the Hohertsfahnen der NSDAP (flags of the Political Leadership)

Opposite: A veteran aquired tapestry which was taken from the Berlin Chancellery by a member of General Eisenhower's staff. *Courtesy of Bruce Beck*



Extremely rare banner for the Schellenbaum of the marching band for NSDAP Kreis Luxemburg.



Reverse of the Kreis Luxemburg Schel enbaum banner



ARMBANDS

Prior to 1939, Political Leaders wore a plain swastika armband, and ranks were denoted by the collar tabs. After 1939, the armband became the position held within the party and also signified rank.

Many high ranking Political Leaders armbands were finely made with gold bullion wiring to the oak leaves and borders. Most Political Leader armbands were constructed with the more yellow appearing celluloid material.



Pre-1939 cloth swastika armband as would typically be used on a brown shirt.

Dienststellungsabzeichen auf der Armbinde der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. in der Ortsgruppe



politischer-Leiter- Armbänder



Mitarbeiter,
Leiter eines Hilfsfachgebietes,
Leiter eines Sachgebietes



Leiter einer Hilfsstelle
Blockwaller und
Blockobmann



Leiter einer Stelle
Zellenwaller und
Zellenobmann



Leiter einer Hauptstelle



Leiter eines Amtes



Betriebsblockobmann



Betriebszellenobmann,
Hauptbetriebszellenobmann



Blockhelfer
Betriebsobmann (A).



Blockleiter
Betriebsobmann (B).



Zellenleiter
Betriebsobmann (C und D)
Hauptbetriebsobmann



Ortsgruppenleiter

Kraftwagenstander in der Ortsgruppe



Ortsgruppenleiter

Bookplate from 1943 "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" showing armbands and vehicle pennants within the Orts level



Pre- 939 wool type armband that would typically be used on a tunic or g. coat



Armband for Ortsgruppe Politischen Leiter Anwärter



Armband für Ortsgruppe Mitarbeiter, Leiter eines Hfssachgebietes und Leiter eines Sachgebietes.



Armband für Ortsgruppe Leiter eines Amtes



Armband for Ortsgruppe Betriebszellenobmann and Hauptbetriebszellenobmann.



Armband for Ortsgruppe Blockleiter and Betriebsobmann (B)



Armband for Ortsgruppe Zellen erte (C und D) and Hauptbetriebsobmann



Armband for NSDAP Ortsgruppen erte



Ortsgruppenleiter with the rank of Hauptgemeinschaftsleiter

Dienststellungsabzeichen auf der Armbinde der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. in der Kreisleitung



Politischer-Leiter-Anwärter
Sonderbeauftragter: weiße Scheibe
u. Hakenkreuz mit goldf. Einfassung



Mitarbeiter.
Leiter eines Hilfsgebietes.
Leiter eines Samgebietes



Leiter einer Hilfsstelle



Leiter einer Stelle



Leiter einer Hauptstelle



Leiter eines Amtes



Leiter eines Hauptamtes



Kreisleiter

Kraftwagenstander in der Kreisleitung



Kreisleiter



Leiter eines Hauptamtes
Leiter eines Amtes



Kreisgauernschaftsleiterin



Armband für Kreis Leiter einer Stelle



Armband für Kreis Leiter einer Hauptstelle



Armband für Kreis Leiter eines Amtes



Armband für Kreis Leiter eines Hauptamtes



Kreis level Hauptamtsleiter



Armband for NSDAP Kreisleiter



Armband for Gau Leiter einer Stelle

Dienststellungsabzeichen auf der Armbinde der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. in der Gauleitung



Politischer-Leiter-Anwärter
Sonderbeauftragter: weiße Scheibe
u. Hakenkreuz mit gold. Einfassung



Mitarbeiter
Leiter eines Hilfsfachgebietes
Leiter eines Sachgebietes



Leiter einer Hilfsstelle



Leiter einer Stelle



Leiter einer Hauptstelle



Leiter eines Amtes



Leiter eines Hauptamtes



Stellvertretender
Gauleiter



Gauleiter

Kraftwagenstander in der Gauleitung



Gauleiter



Stellvertretender
Gauleiter



Leiter eines Haupt-
amtes



Leiter eines Amtes



Gaufrauenchaftsleiterin



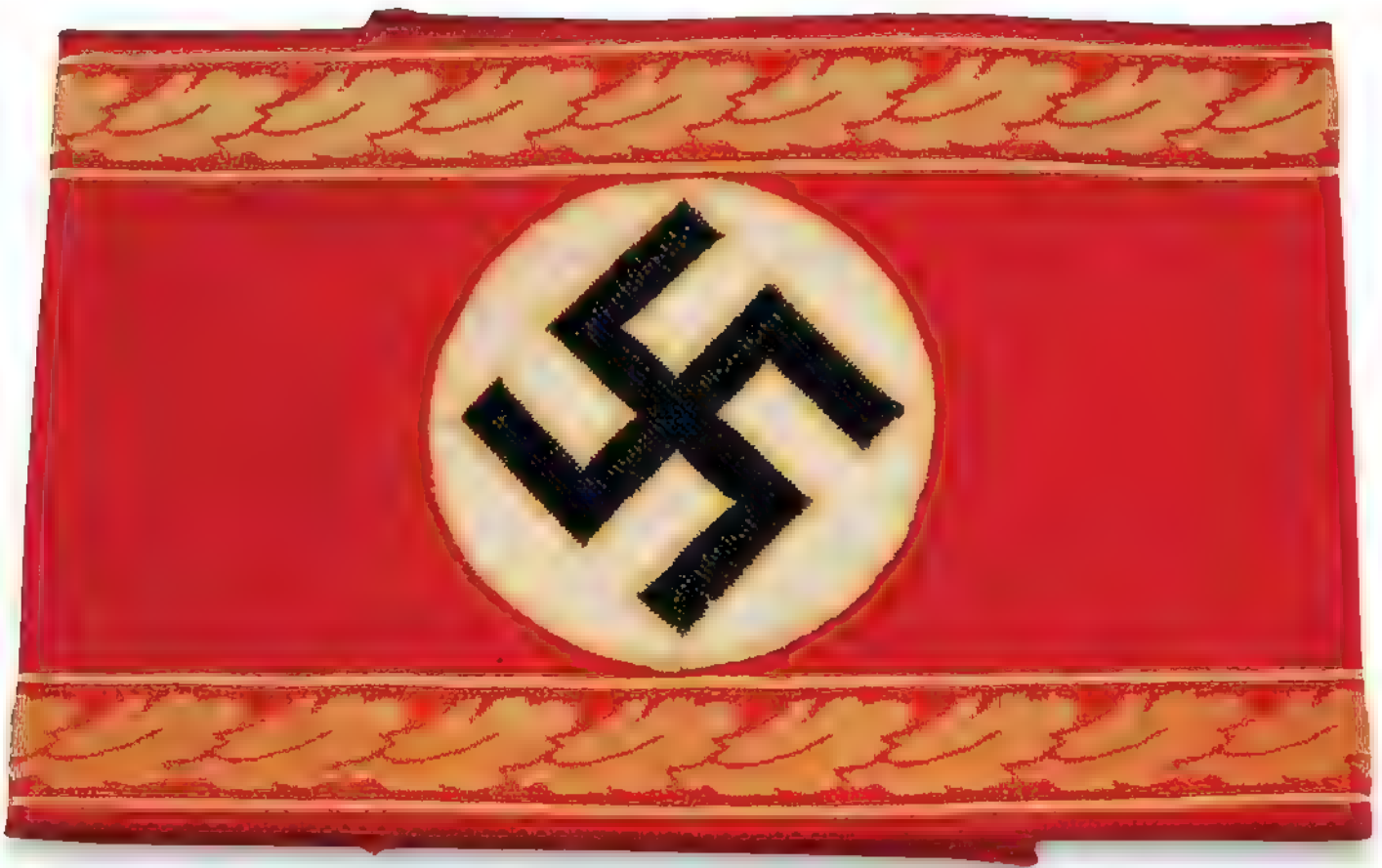
Gau Political Leader wearing armband for Leiter einer Stele



Armband für Gau Leiter einer Hauptstelle



Armband für Gau Leiter eines Amtes



Armband for Gau Leiter eines Hauptamtes



Armband for Stellvertretender (Deputy) Gauleiter



Armband for NSDAP Gauleiter



Gauleiter Wilhelm Murr

Armbands



Above: A pair of last pattern Gaulerter collar tabs and Gaulerter armband. This set once belonged to Gaulerter Hinrich Lohse of the Gau Schleswig-Holstein.

Right: Pre-1939 photo of Gaulerter Hinrich Lohse



Dienststellungsabzeichen auf der Armbinde der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. in der Reichsleitung



Politischer-Leiter-Anwärter
Sonderbeauftragter: weiße Scheibe
u. Hakenkreuz mit goldf. Einfassung



Mitarbeiter,
Leiter eines Hilfsfachgebietes,
Leiter eines Sachgebietes



Leiter einer Hilfsstelle



Leiter einer Stelle



Leiter einer Hauptstelle



Leiter eines Amtes



Leiter eines Hauptamtes



Leiter eines Ob. Amtes



Reichsleiter

Kraftwagenstander in der Reichsleitung



Reichsleiter



Leiter eines Ob. Amtes
Leiter eines Hauptamtes



Leiter eines Amtes



Leiter einer Hauptstelle



Reichsfrauenführerin



Hauptabteilungsleiterin



Armband für Reich Politischer Leiter-Anwärter



Armband für Reich Mitarbeiter Leiter eines Hilfssachgebietes, and Leiter eines Sachgebietes



Armband für Reich Leiter einer Hilfsstelle



Armband für Reich Leiter einer Stelle



Armband für Reich Leiter einer Hauptstelle



Armband für Reich Leiter eines Hauptamtes



Political leader with Leiter eines Amtes armband. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



Armband für Reichleiter eines Oberen or Obersten Amtes.



Armband für NSDAP Reichsleiter



Reichsleiter Walter Darré

COLLAR TABS

There were three collar tab pattern changes made during the period of 1933-1945, as previously mentioned, with additions to the second pattern in 1936. The first pattern insignia were c. 1933-1934.

Dienstgradabzeichen der politischen Leiter



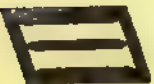
Blockwart: Braune Spiegel mit 1 silbernen Winkel, Mütze mit Lederriemen, Kragenumrandung silbern



Zellenwart: Braune Spiegel mit 2 silbernen Winkeln, Mütze mit Lederriemen, Kragenumrandung silbern.



Ortsgruppenleiter: Braune Spiegel mit 1 silbernen Ritz, Mützenschnur silbern mit 1 Knoten, Kragenumrandung silbern, Achselschnur auf beiden Schultern silbern mit 1 Knoten, braun unterlegt.



Kreisleiter: Braune Spiegel mit doppelter silberner Ritz, Mützenschnur silbern mit 2 Knoten, Kragenumrandung silbern, Achselschnur auf beiden Schultern silbern mit 2 Knoten, braun unterlegt.



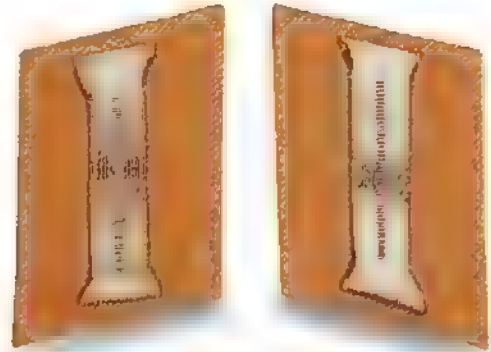
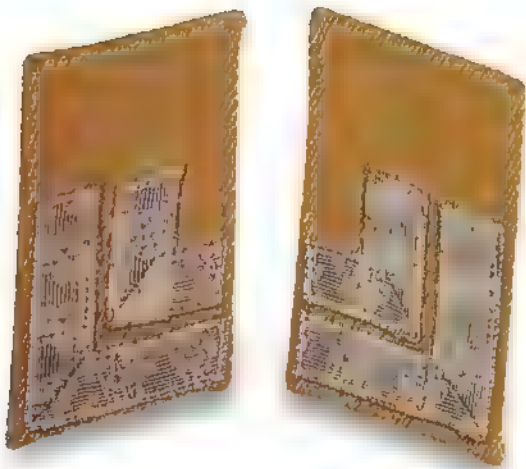
Gauleiter: Spiegel mit einfach, Goldlitze auf hellrotem Grund, Mützenschnur golden mit 1 Knoten, Kragenumrandung golden, Achselschnur auf beiden Schultern golden mit 1 Knoten, hellrot unterlegt.



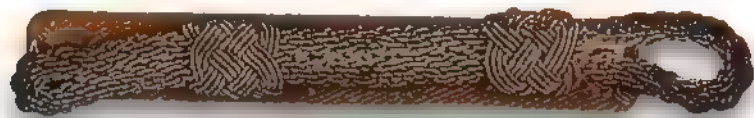
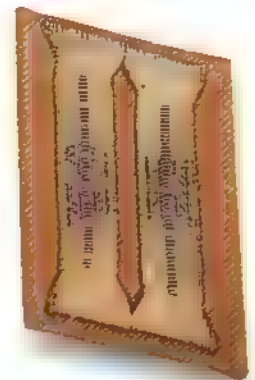
Reichsleitung: Karmesinrote Spiegel mit goldener Doppellitze, Mützenschnur golden mit 2 Knoten, Kragenumrandung golden, Achselschnur auf beiden Schultern golden m. 2 Knoten, karmesinrot unterlegt.



Sleeve diamond worn by Stabsleiter (Staff Leader) of the NSDAP Courtesy of Don Tarkenton



An assortment of early Political Leader insignia, c.1933 Shown are: (Top row, left to right) Zeienwart collar tabs (pair), Ortsgruppenleiter collar tabs (pair) and shoulder board. (Bottom row, left to right) PL sleeve diamond, Kreisleiter collar tabs (pair) and shoulder board.

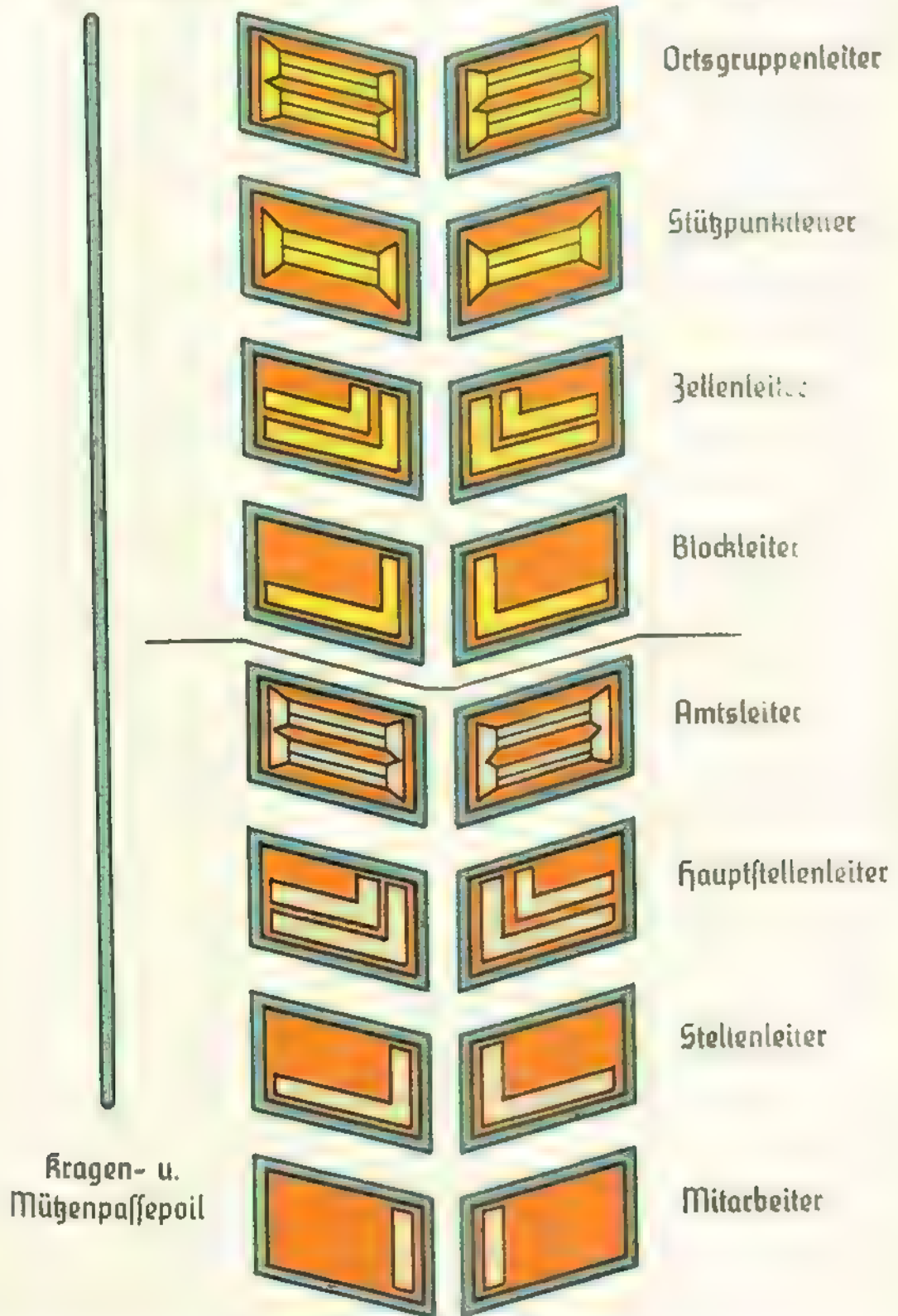


Left: Early political leader Blockwart tabs
Right: These early Blockwart tabs were never issued and still have the label attached.



Entry year ribbons as worn on the left sleeve by NSDAP members up until 1933.

Dienststrangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter Ortsgruppen- bzw. Stützpunktleitung



Bookplate from 1936 "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" showing Orts level tabs.

Collar Tabs

The second pattern insignia was worn from 1934 to 1939. The Reich level tab was Crimson Red with yellow piping. The Gau level tab was a bright red with red piping. The Kreis level tab was rust brown with black piping. The Orts level tab was light brown

with light blue piping. The Party Court tabs were dark blue with the piping representing the political level in which they served. Retired or out of service Political Leader tabs were black with the piping representing the political level in which they served.



Second pattern (1934-1939) Ortsgruppe PL collar tabs. Shown are: (Top row, left to right) Stützpunktleiter, Retired Stützpunktleiter (pair), Amtsleiter (pair), Ortsgruppenleiter (two singles), (Bottom row left to right) Mitarbeiter (pair), Hauptstellenleiter (pair), Blockleiter (pair), Zellenleiter

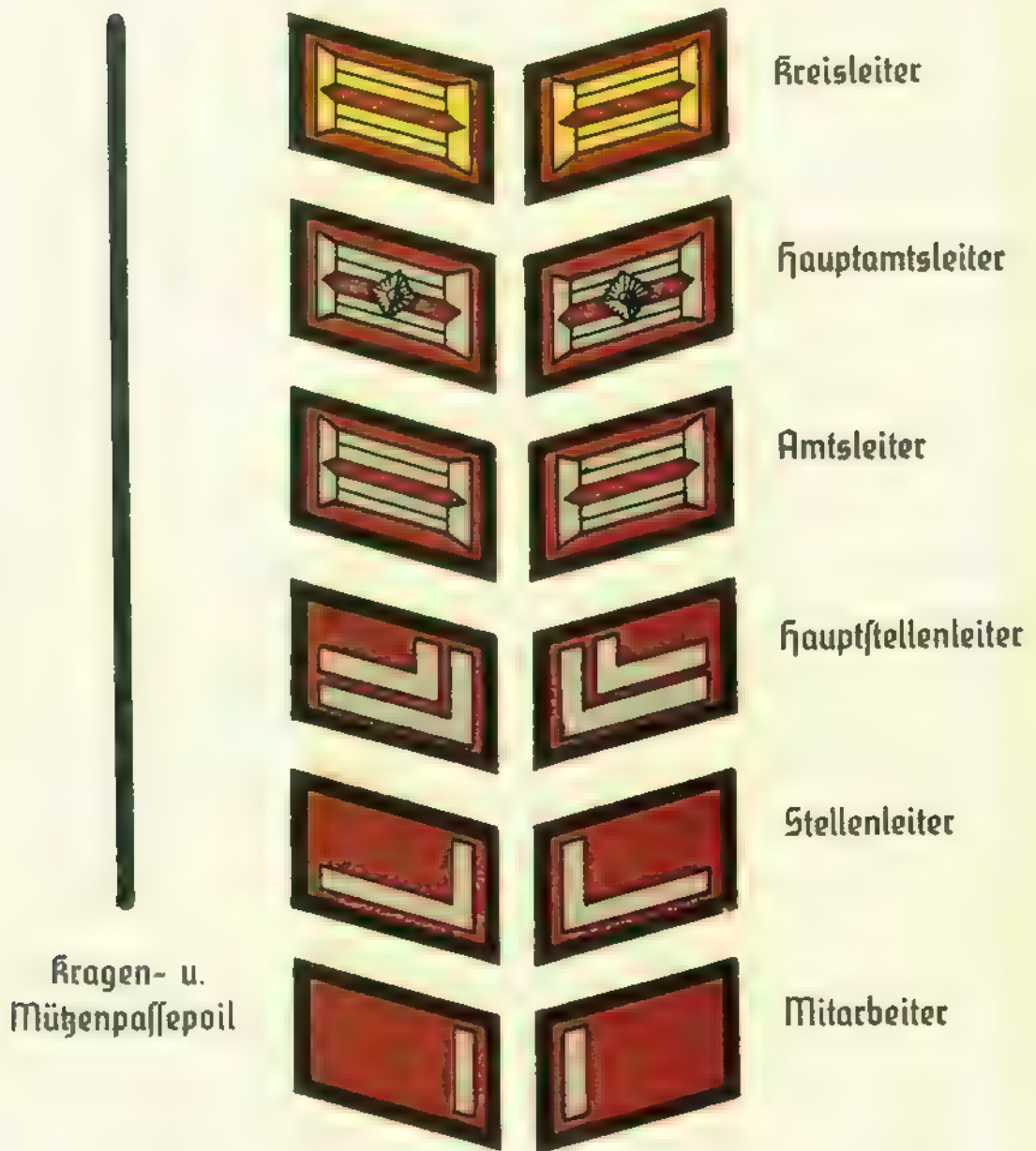


Second pattern retired Ortsgruppe Stützpunktleiter tabs.

Reverse of Ortsgruppe Stützpunktleiter tabs showing RZM label

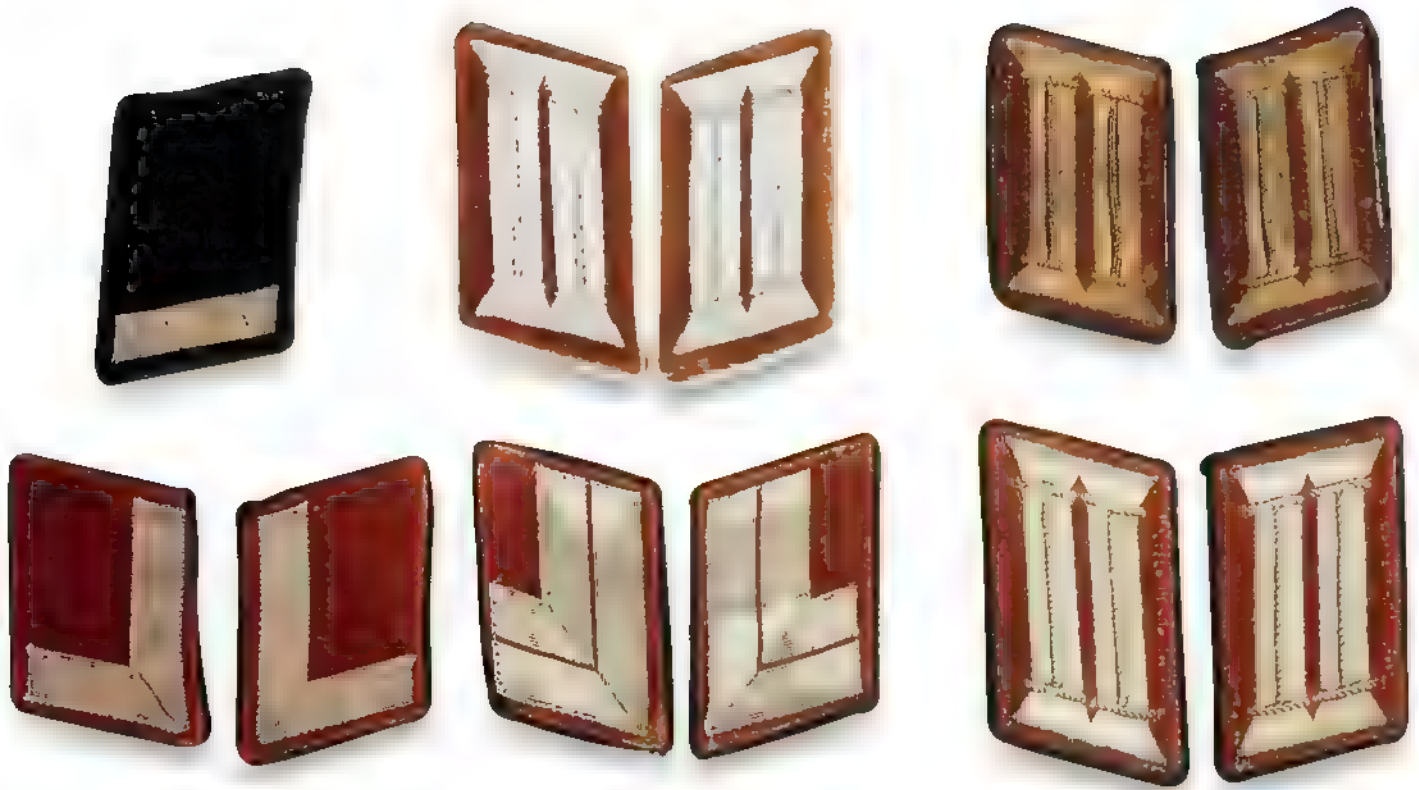
Dienststrangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter

Kreisleitung



Bookplate from 1936 "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" showing Kreis level tabs.

Collar Tabs



Second pattern (1934- 939) Kreisleitung collar tabs. Shown are: (Top row, left to right) Retired Mitarbeiter-Amtsleiter (pair, with 1939 white piping); Kreisleiter (pair); (Bottom row, left to right) Stellenleiter (pair); Hauptstellenleiter (pair); Amtsleiter



Second pattern Kreis Amtsleiter tabs.



Reverse of Kreis Amtsleiter tabs showing RZM label



Political Leader still wearing second pattern Amtsleiter tabs during war time



Second pattern (1934- 939) Gau. erung collar tabs. Shown are (Top row left to right) Amtsleiter (pair), Gauleiter (pair) (Bottom row left to right) Mitarbeiter (pair), Stabsleiter (pair) Hauptstabsleiter (pair)



Second pattern Gau Amtleiter tabs

Reverse of Gau Amtleiter tabs showing RZM label



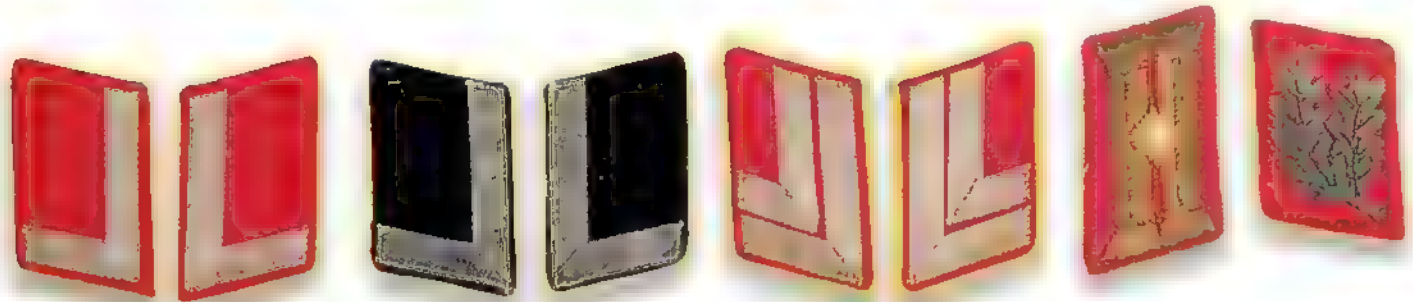
Gaulter Martin Mutschmann and Reichsleiter Robert Ley wearing the second pattern collar tabs

Collar Tabs

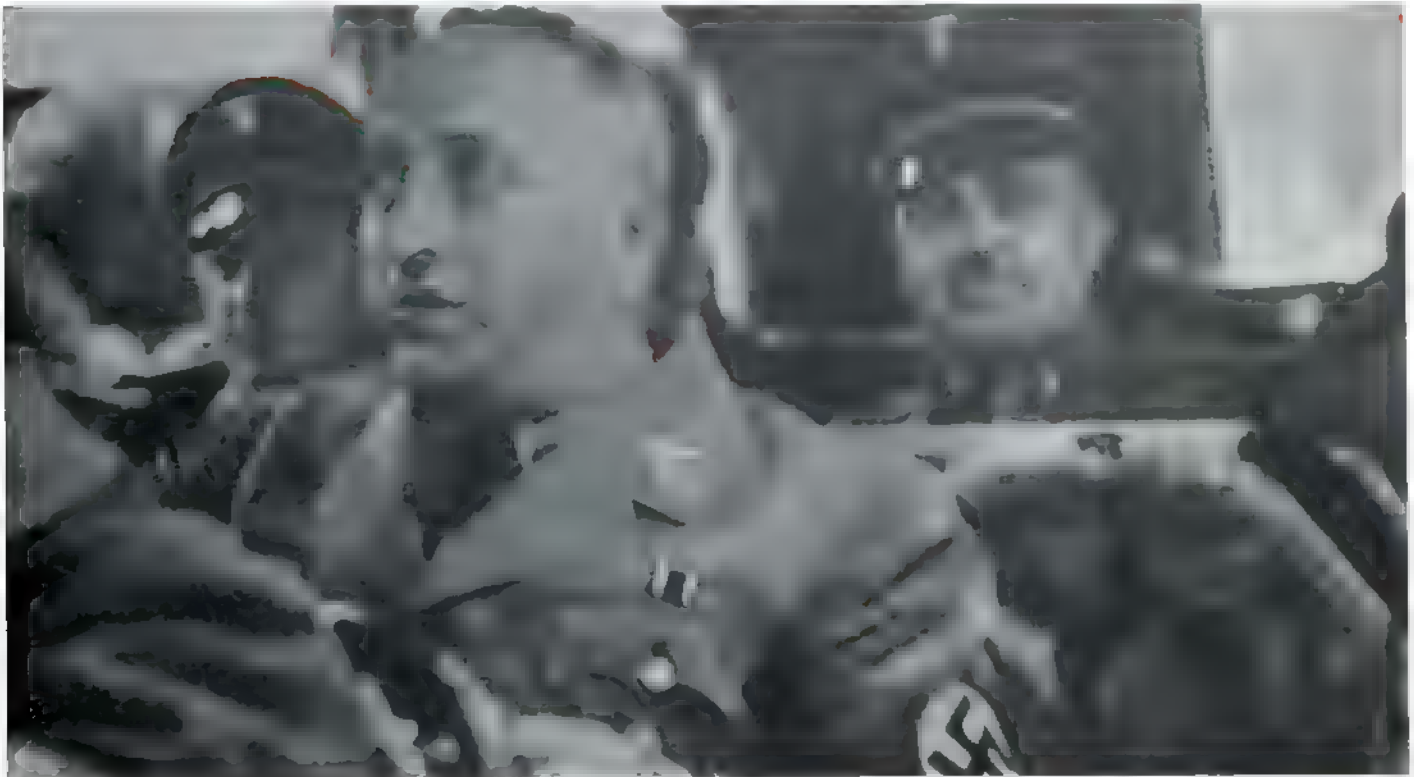


Second pattern Gauleiter tabs

Reverse of Gauleiter tabs showing RZM label



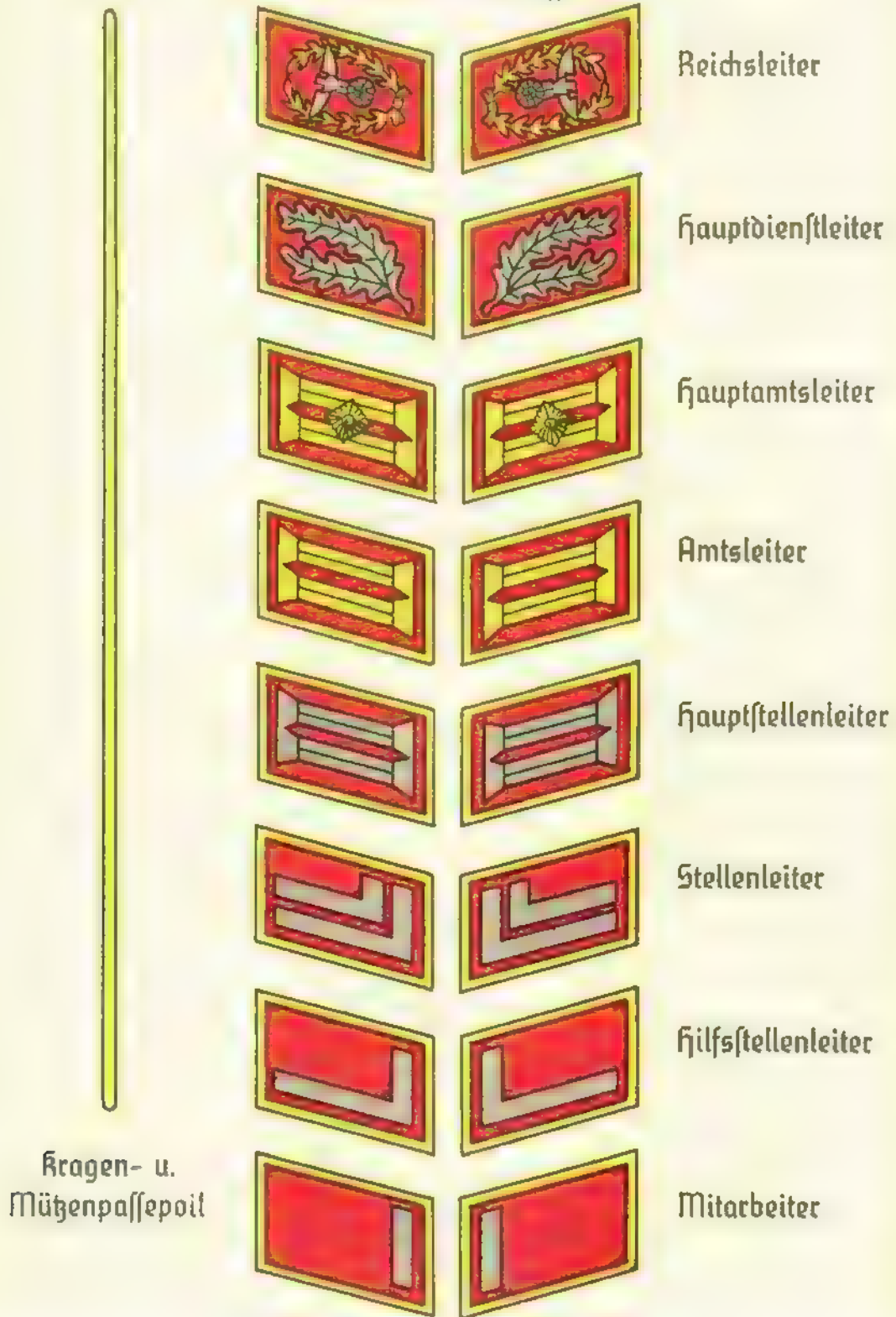
Second pattern (1934-1939) Reichsleitung collar tabs. Shown are: (Left to right) Hilfsstellenleiter (pa.r), Retired Hilfsstellenleiter (pa.r), Stellenleiter (pa.r), Hauptamtsleiter; Hauptdienstleiter



Reichsleiter Ley wearing the 1934 pattern tabs

Dienstrangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter

Reichsleitung



Bookplate from 1936 "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" showing Reich level tabs.



Second pattern Reich Amtseiter tabs.

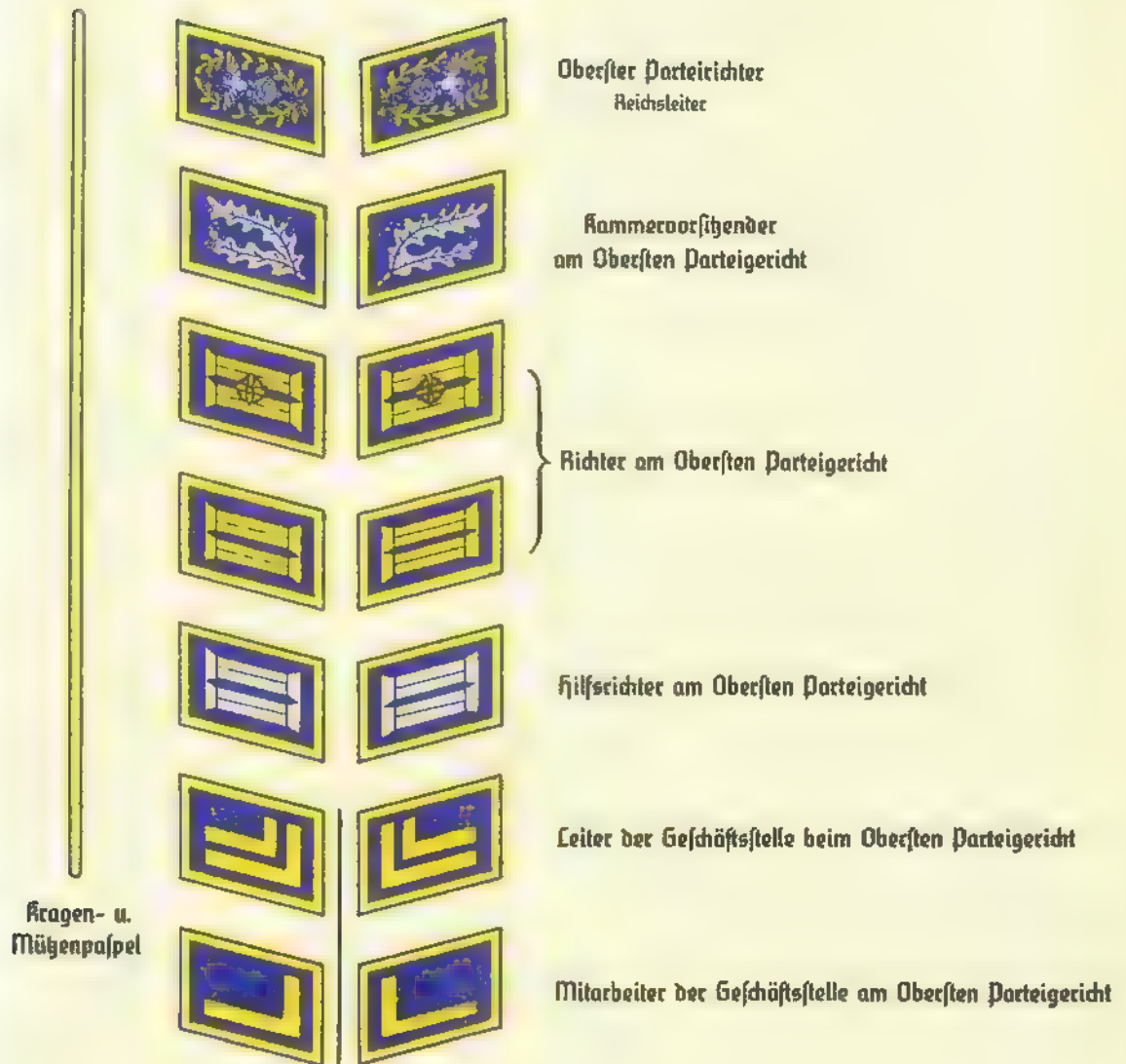


Reverse of Reich Amtseiter tabs showing RZM label

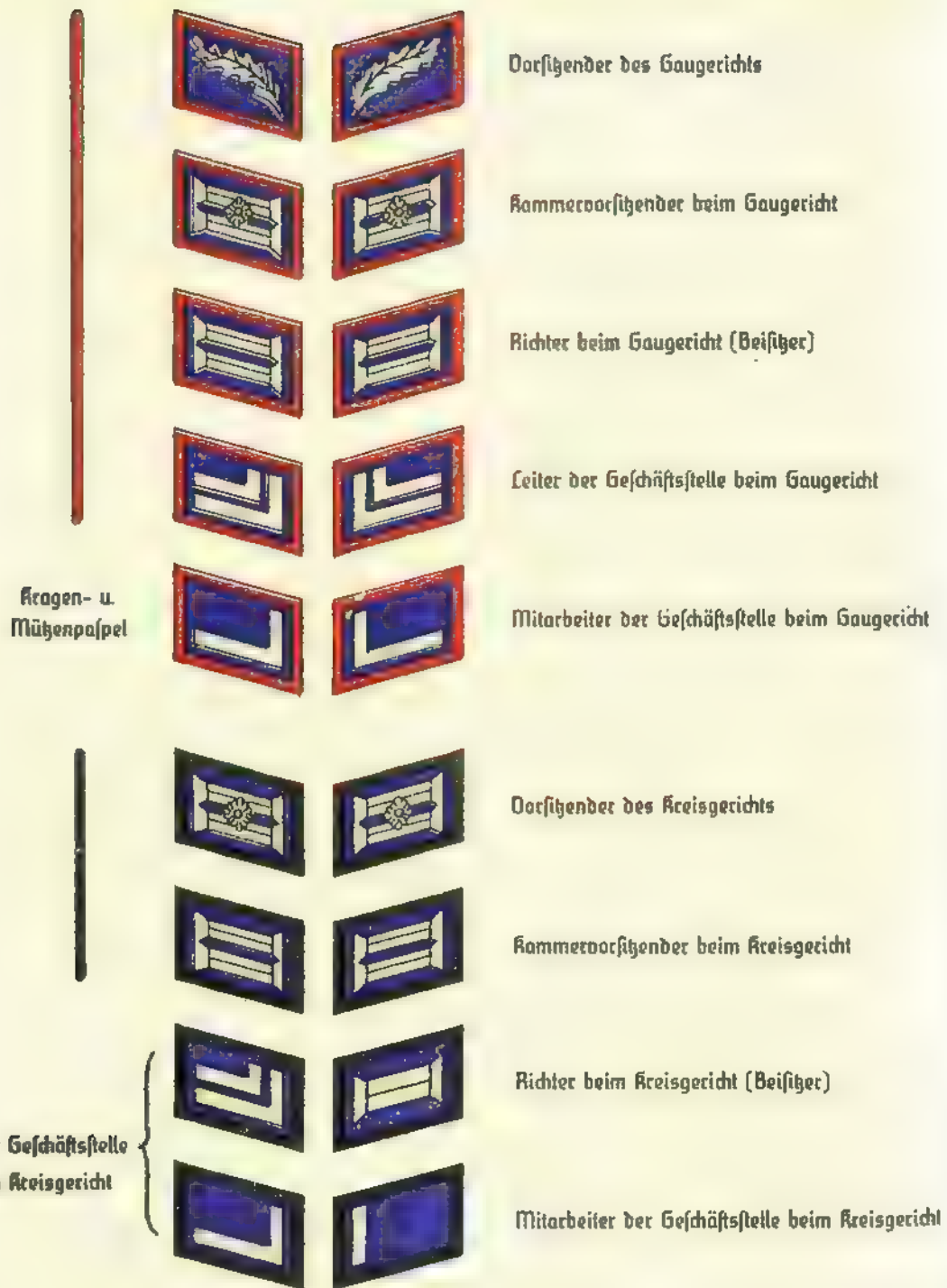


1934 pattern collar tabs for NSDAP Reichsleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair). Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Oberstes Parteigericht



Bookplate from 1936 "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" showing Party Court level tabs.



Bookplate from 1936 "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" showing Party Court level tabs



An assortment of NSDAP Party Court collar tabs (1933-1939). Shown are: (Left side, top to bottom) Kreis bzw Orts-Be sitzer (first series, pair), Mitarbeiter der Geschäftsstelle beim Gaugench (second series, pair); Gaunchter/ Vorsitzender des Gaugench (first series, right side). (Right side, top to bottom) Beisitzer beim Obersten Parteigench/ Richter am Obersten Parteigench (both series, right side); Richter am Obersten Parteigench with long service (pair), Reichsleiter/Oberster Parteirichter (right side) Note Party Court tabs are extremely rare

Collar Tabs



Second pattern Reich Richter am Obersten Parteigericht *Courtesy of Clyde R Davis*



Left Second series Party Court collar tab (left side) for Richter beim Gaugericht (Judge on a Gau Court) Center Second series Party Court collar tab (left side) for Vorsitzende des Gaugerichts (President of a Gau Court) Note this is the highest rank at the Gau level Right Reichsleiter collar tab for the Supreme Judge of the Party Court Note only two men held this rank

Dienststrangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. in der Ortsgruppe



Politischer-Leiter-
Anwärter (Nicht-Ög.)

Politischer-Leiter-
Anwärter (Ög.)

Helfer

Oberhelfer



Arbeitsleiter

Ober-
Arbeitsleiter

Haupt-
Arbeitsleiter



Bereitschaftsleiter

Ober-
Bereitschaftsleiter

Haupt-
Bereitschaftsleiter



Einjahleiter

Ober-
Einjahleiter

Haupt-
Einjahleiter



Gemeinschaftsleiter

Ober-
Gemeinschaftsleiter

Haupt-
Gemeinschaftsleiter



Abchnittsleiter

Ober-
Abchnittsleiter

Abzeichen für Frauenschaftsleiterinnen



Ortsfrauenschafts-
leiterin



Engerer Stab



Erweiterter Stab



Sonstige
Mitarbeiterinnen
(auch Nicht-Öggn.)



Sämtliche
ausgeschiedenen
Mitarbeiterinnen
usw.

On March 21, 1939, the *Führer* ordered Reich Organizational Leader (ROL) Dr. Robert Ley to design and begin to implement the final Political Leaders uniforms and insignia. The old uniform and insignia could be worn up until December 31, 1941, however with the war in progress; the implementation was never completely carried out. Many Political Leaders wore their second pattern insignia all the way until the end.

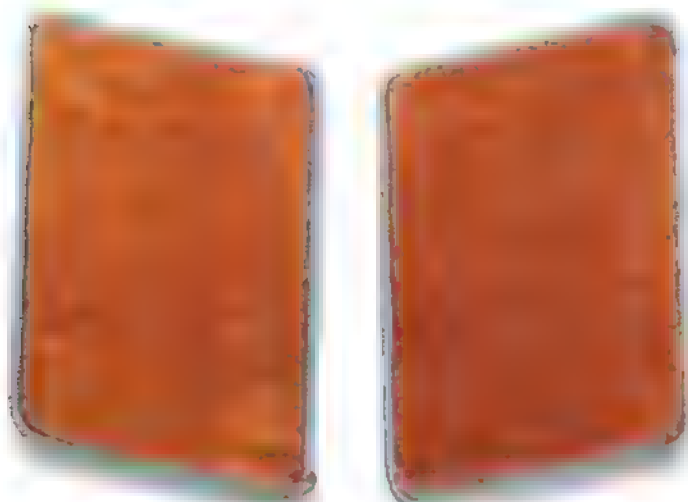
It seems, due to the war, ROL Dr. Ley was never able to complete the rank system. The NSDAP Organizational books only address completely the party faithful leadership ranks (“*Der Hoheitsträger*”). For example it specifically states that an *Ortsgruppenleiter* and *Kreisleiter* could only hold the top five ranks within their level (*Orts* and *Kreis*), and that they would start at the lowest of those five ranks. However, a point system was in place that was the basis for the transition of the political leaders (from the second pattern insignia) over to the new rank system. This point system also allowed a higher rank depending on the number of

points. The calculation of points was based on years of service and several other complicated factors.

The *Reich* level tab colors remained the same. The *Gau* level tab was changed to a orange red with dark red (wine) piping. The *Kreis* level tab was changed to a darker brown with white piping. The *Orts* level tab remained the same.

Many *Gau* and *Kreis* level Political Leaders simply upgraded their existing uniforms. For example many *Kreis* Political Leaders changed the color of their tab piping and tunics to white, but continued to use and wear the old rank insignia. Many *Gau* Political Leaders used the existing red piped tunics and when promoted, changed to the new collar tabs. So their tunics were piped in red, while the tabs were piped in the dark red (wine).

Note that Political Leaders in the ranks of *Abschnittsleiter* and above were authorized to wear the metal device tabs as well as the embroidered type. Many of these high leaders’ embroidered tabs were finely made with bullion wire.



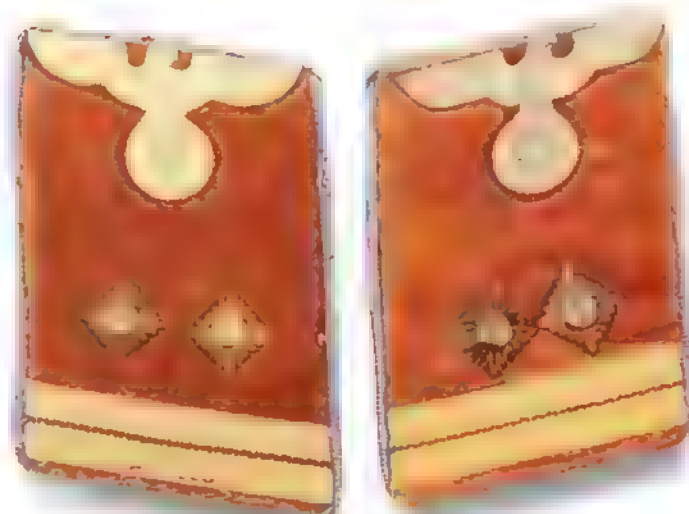
Ortsgruppe Politischer Leiter-Anwärter (nicht-Pg.)



Ortsgruppe Politischer Leiter-Anwärter (Pg.)

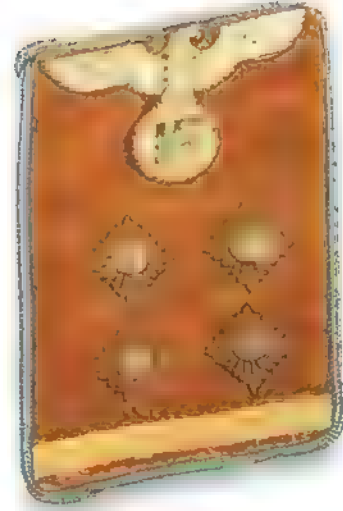
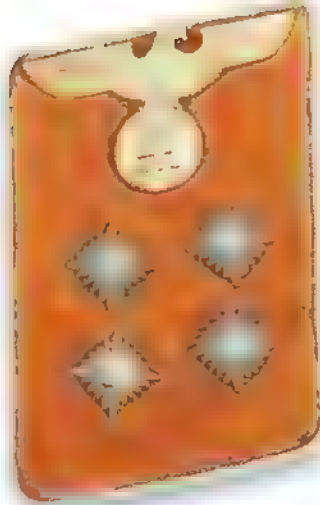
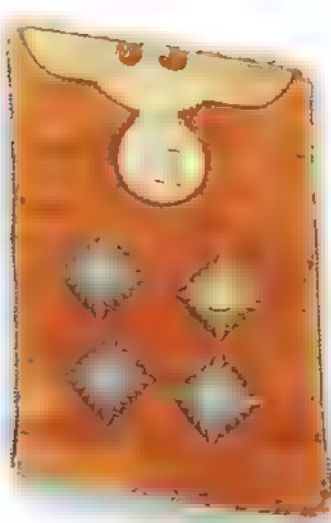


Ortsgruppe Arbeitsleiter



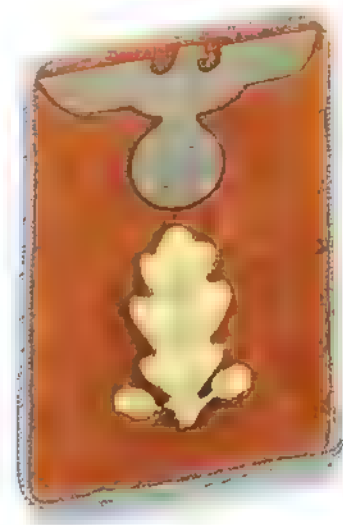
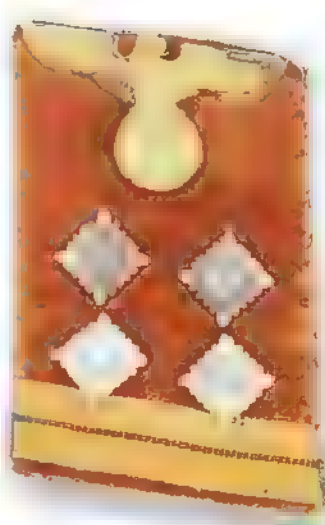
Ortsgruppe Hauptberenschaftsleiter

Uniforms of the NSDAP



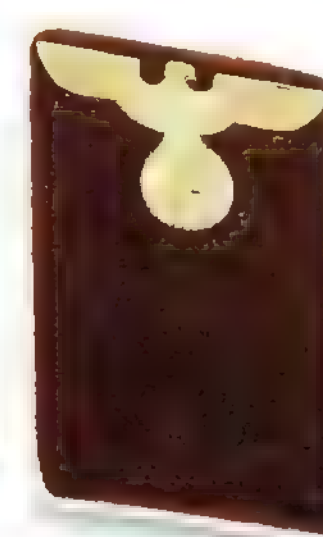
Ortsgruppe Gemeinschaftsleiter

Ortsgruppe Obergemeinschaftsleiter



Ortsgruppe Hauptgemeinschaftsleiter

Ortsgruppe Abschnittsleiter Note this is the second highest rank at the Orts level



Kreisleitung Politischer Leiter-Anwärter (nicht-Pg)

Kreisleitung Politischer Leiter-Anwärter (Pg)

Dienststrangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. in der Kreisleitung



Abzeichen für Frauenschaftsleiterinnen



Sonderbeauftragter
der NSDAP.



Kreisfrauenschafts-
leiterin



Engerer Stab



Erweiterter Stab



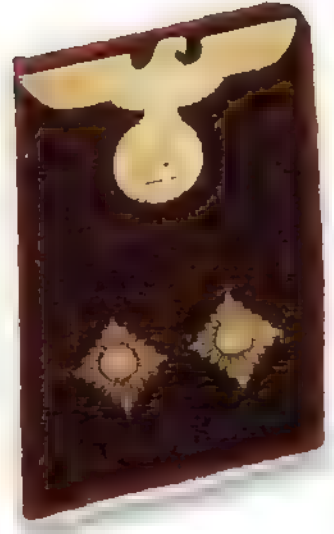
Sonstige
Mitarbeiterinnen
(auch Nicht-Pggn.)



Sämtliche
ausgeschlossenen
Mitarbeiterinnen
ufo.



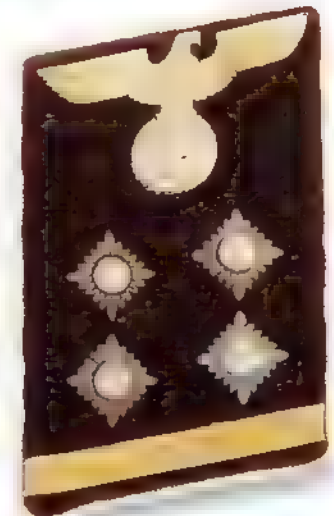
Kreis Arbeitsleiter



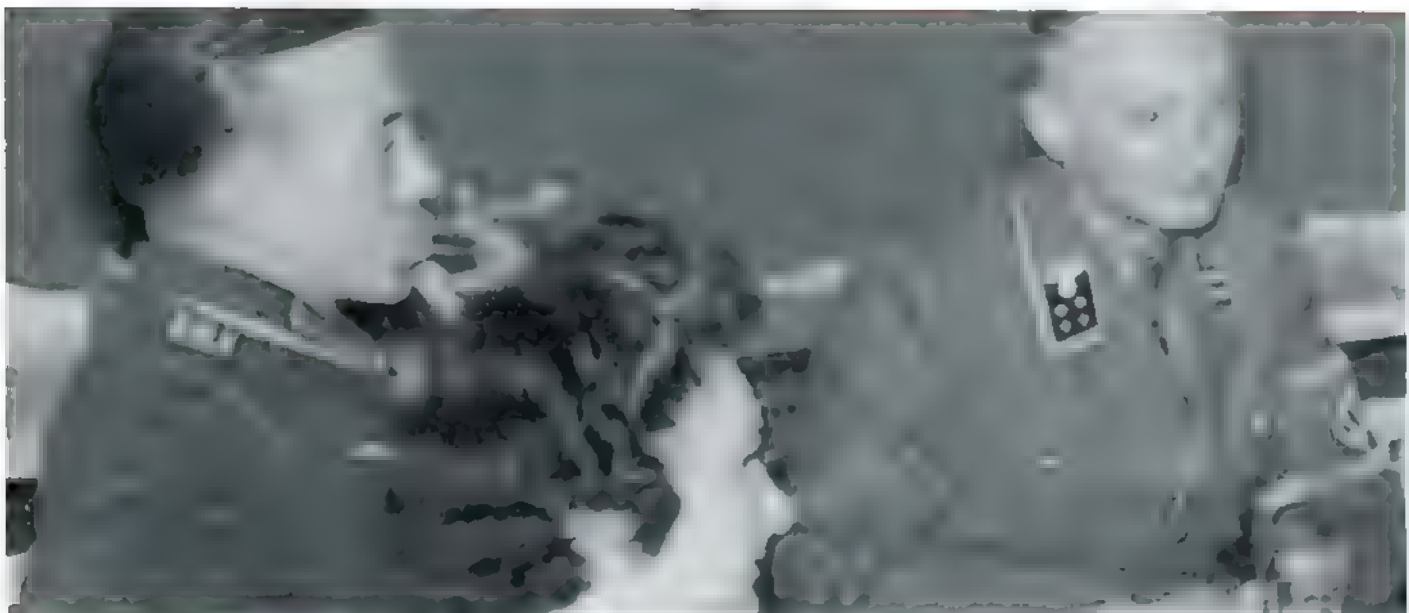
Kreis Bereitschaftsleiter



Kreis Einsatzleiter



Kreis Obergemeinschaftsleiter



Political Leader with Kreis Leiter eines Amtes armband and Gemeinschaftsleiter tabs.



Kreis Hauptgemeinschaftsleiter



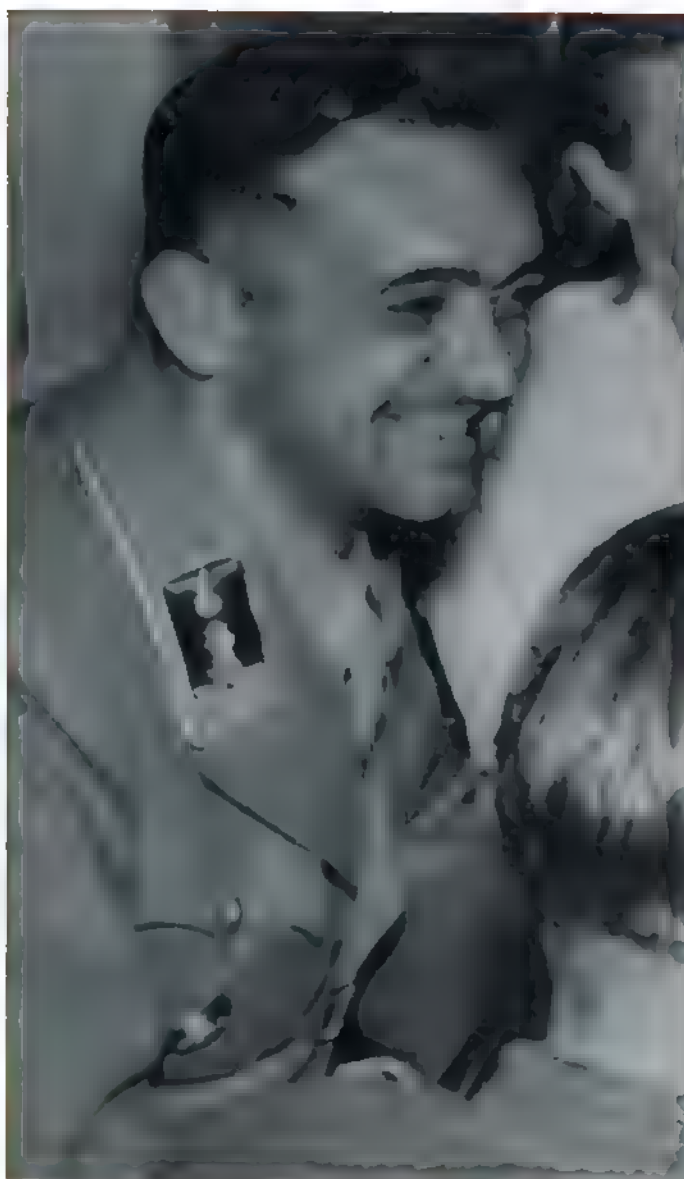
Kreis Abschnittsleiter



Kreis Oberabschnittsleiter, embroidered



Kreis Hauptabschnittsleiter



Kreis level political leader with Hauptabschnittsleiter tabs



Kreis Oberbereichsleiter, embroidered.

Kreis Hauptbereichsleiter, embroidered.



Left: Kreis Dienstleiter embroidered (right side) Note highest rank possible in the Kreis. Right: Kreis Sonderbeauftragter (left side)



Gau Politischer-Leiter-Anwärter (Pg)



Gau Arbeitsleiter

Left: Gau Helfer (RZM Standardmuster pair) Note Collar tabs tagged like this were used as examples for makers to manufacture from

Dienststrangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. in der Gauleitung



Abzeichen für Frauenschaftsleiterinnen



Sonderbeauftragter der NSDAP.



Gauefrauenschaftsleiterin



Engerer Stab



Erweiterter Stab



Sonstige Mitarbeiterinnen (auch Nicht-Pggn.)



Sämtliche ausgeschiedenen Mitarbeiterinnen usw.



Gau Oberarbeitsleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Gau Oberbereitschaftsleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Gau Einsatzleiter



Gau Obereinsatzleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Gau Haupteinsatzleiter



Gau Gemeinschaftsleiter



Gau Obergemeinschaftsleiter



Gau Hauptgemeinschaftsleiter



Gau Abschnittsleiter button embroidered.



Gau Obergemeinschaftsleiter political leader. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Uniforms of the NSDAP

Gau Abschnittsleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Gau Oberabschnittsleiter



Gau Hauptabschnittsleiter



Gau Bereichsleiter, embroidered



Gau Hauptabschnittsleiter Alfred Arnold

Uniforms of the NSDAP



Gau Oberbereichsleiter, embroidered.



Gau Hauptbereichsleiter



Gau level political leader with Hauptbereichsleiter tabs visible



Gau Dienstleiter, embroidered.



Gau Oberdienstleiter, embroidered.



Gau Hauptdienstleiter, embroidered

Right Gau Hauptdienstleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Gau Befehlsleiter



Deputy Gauleiter and Befehlsleiter Karl Schanzer with unidentified Kreisleiter Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Collar Tabs



Gau Oberbefehlshaber embroidered

Gau Hauptbefehlshaber embroidered. Note this rank does not exist in the 1943 'Organisationsbuch der NSDAP', but subsequent publications validate that it was introduced after 1942-1943



Gauleiter collar with bullion highlights

Gauleiter bullion



Gauleiter: cello embroidery with gold bullion highlights. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Left: Gauleiter collar tab with gold bullion highlights. Courtesy of Bruce Beck
Right: Gauleiter collar tab with gold bullion highlights. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Gauleiter Dr. Gustav Adolf Scheel. Courtesy of Bruce Beck.



Gaulerter Fritz Wächler. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Uniforms of the NSDAP



Left variant 939 reverse pattern (swastika) for NSDAP Gauleiter (left side). The pattern was worn only by Gauleiter Frick, Koch and other high-ranking Gauleiter. Middle: Gau Sonderbeauftragte (appointed directly to the Reich) and Gauleiter, decorated with metal wattle wreath (left side) Gauleiter of Gau R.D.S.

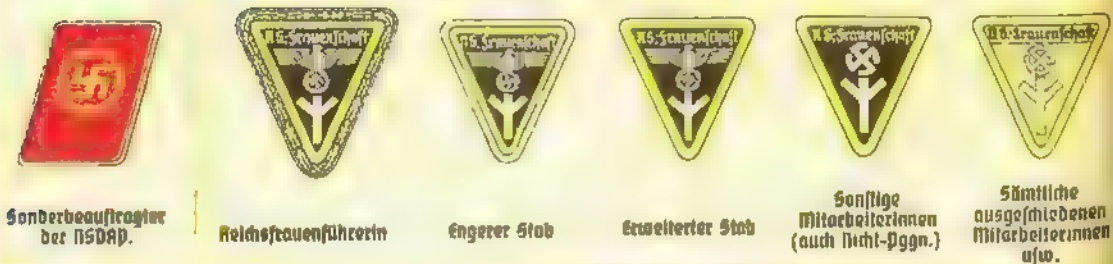


Reich Minister D. Robert Ley and Gauleiter Ernst Kinnhuber, who is shown wearing the variant 939 reverse pattern. Gauleiter colloquial name on March 24, 1939. Middle, variant 939 R.D.S.

Dienststrangabzeichen der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. in der Reichsleitung



Abzeichen für Frauenschaftsleiterinnen



Bookplate from 1943 'Organisationsbuch der NSDAP' showing Reich level tabs.



Reich Helfer (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Reich Oberhelfer (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Reich Einsatzleiter



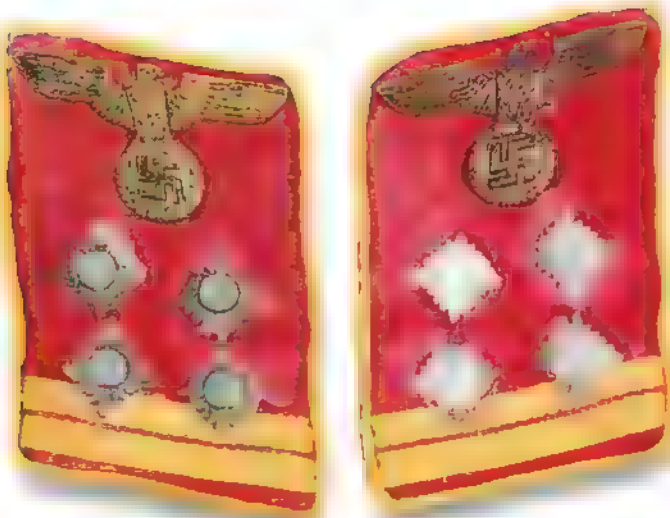
Reich Einsatzleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Reich Gemeinschaftsleiter



Reich Obergemeinschaftsleiter



Reich Hauptgemeinschaftsleiter



Reich Abschnittsleiter



Reich Oberabschnittsleiter embroidered



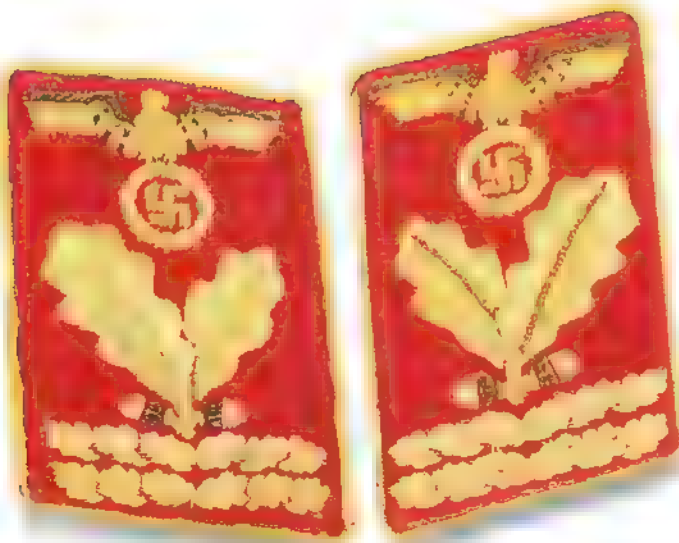
Reich Hauptabschnittsleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Reich Bereichsleiter embroidered



Reich Oberbereichsleiter, embroidered



Reich Hauptbereichsleiter embroidered



Reich Hauptbereichsleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Reich Dienstleiter embroidered



Reich Dienstleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Reich Oberdienstleiter, embroidered



Reich Hauptdienstleiter embroidered

Reich Oberdienstleiter (RZM Standardmuster pair)



Reich Oberbefehlshaber embroidered



Reich Beihilfenleiter (left side with metal devices right side embroidered)



Reich Hauptbeihilfenleiter embroidered

Uniforms of the NSDAP



NSDAP Reichsleiter (left side)



NSDAP Reichsleiter (left side). Courtesy of Bruce Beck



NSDAP Reichsleiter (right side) in bullion wire embroidery. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis



NSDAP Reichsleiter



Reich Sonderbeauftragter (left side)



Rechenster Ley Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis

Uniforms of the NSDAP

Period picture of Wilhelm Grimm, Reichsleiter and Chief of the Second Chamber of the Party Court. Grimm is the only Reichsleiter ever listed as being retired. Courtesy of Clyde R. Davis.



The only known example of a 1939 Pattern retired Reichsleiter tab (left side). The veteran stated that this tab was taken off of a tunic found in the home of Wilhelm Grimm. Courtesy of Kim Aisrott.



Reverse views of typical 1939 pattern Political Leader collar tabs showing paper RZM tags.

MEDALS AND REGALIA



Assorted Gau and Kreis tinnies and party day pins. Courtesy of Bob Kresbaugh

Medals and Regalia



NSDAP Long Service Decorations for (left to right) 10, 15 and 25 years' service. *Courtesy of Bob Kresbaugh*



Party District Commemorative Badge for 1923. *Courtesy of Bob Kresbaugh*



Party District Commemorative Badge for 1925. *Courtesy of Bob Kresbaugh*





Above: Cased NSDAP 25 year long service medal with stick pin and button hole device. *Courtesy of Dan Tarkington*

Opposite: Cased NSDAP 15 year long service medal *Courtesy of Bruce Beck*



Gau Baden Commemorative Badge. Courtesy of Bob Kresbaugh



Gau Thüringen tinnie. Courtesy of Bob Kresbaugh



Left: Small Golden Party Badge awarded to the first 100,000 members. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Right: Large Golden Party Badge awarded to the first 100,000 members. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

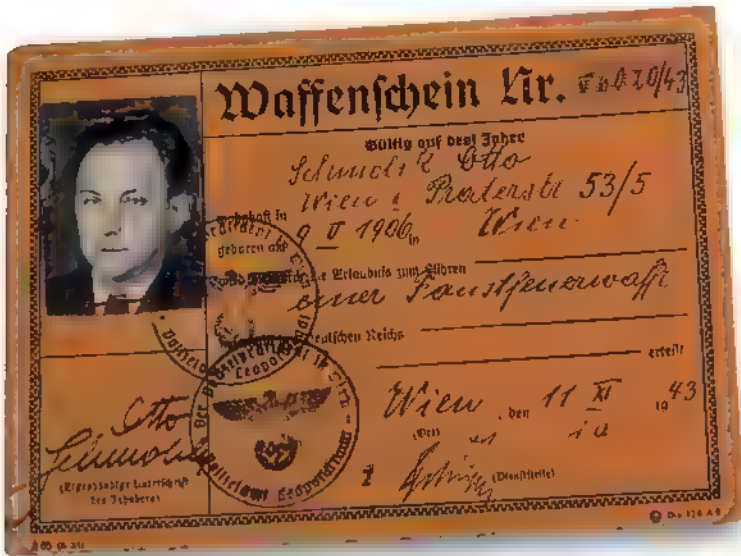
Below Enamel pins for the DAF, two for Kreis level and one for Gau level. Courtesy of Bob Kresbaugh





Assorted enamel pins for the NS Frauenchaft (National Socialist Women's Association) for Orts Kreis, and Gau level. Courtesy of Bob Kresbaugh

A named Blood Order (Blutorden) grouping to an Austrian Party leader The Blood Order was awarded to those who participated with Hitler in the Putsch in Munich on November 9, 1923. Bottom, Reverse of the Blood Order medal. Courtesy of Bruce Beck





Above 1933 Reichsparteitag Nürnberg badge special presentation grade version in solid silver (marked 1000 on reverse). Given only to high-ranking dignitaries. Courtesy of Dan Tarkington



Right Cased 1938 Reichsparteitag Nürnberg badge special presentation grade version in a high quality gold frosted finish with polished gilt highlights. Reverse maker marked Gustav Brehmer Markneukirchen, as is the upper lid of the case. Given only to high-ranking dignitaries. Courtesy of Dan Tarkington

Right An early style (late-1920s) political eagle clutching an open wreath with static swastika on a stickpin mount with a white linen rosette. Reverse is marked 925 silver. This is identified in Huesken's 'Katalog der Orden und Ehrenzeichen der Deutschen Reiches' as the Silbernes Ehrenzeichen der NSDAP (silver honor badge of the NSDAP). He also notes that there is a version in gold. A very rare, early political eagle. Courtesy of Dan Tarkington





A very early cased NSDAP silver eagle badge. It is in the form of an early style political eagle clutching a static swastika within a wreath. The bottom of the case is most interesting. It bears a paper sticker with the markings 'Art. Nr. Adler' and 'Lief. NSDAP'. 'Lief.' is short for 'Lieferant' meaning supplier or distributor. This, together with the issue number would strongly suggest that this was not just some private purchase piece by an individual party member but rather an official NSDAP award for some type of service. *Courtesy of Dan Tarkington*



The front of the badge is separately affixed to the back plate and the swastika is also a separate piece inside the wreath. Not evident in the photos is the fact that the entire front of the badge was once gilded but only minor traces remain in the recessed areas. *Courtesy of Dan Tarkington*



The reverse has a horizontal pin back and is marked with an issue or serial number '3' and is maker marked 'Gahr' on the wingtip. The badge is of three-piece construction (not including the pin assembly). *Courtesy of Dan Tarkington*



Reichsleiter Franz Schwarz's medal bar, ribbon bar, cased Danzig Cross, and War Merit Cross 1st Class without swords. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



NSDAP funeral sash presented by Adolf Hitler to the widow of General Dietl. "Der Führer" style. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Funera. wreath sash for a presentation wreath, "Adolf Hitler" style



Close up of another 'Der Führer' funeral sash. Courtesy of Dan Tarkington



Presentation funeral wreath sash from the Gauleiter of Tirol-Vorarlberg. Note printed facsimiles of the flag for NSDAP Gauleiters.





DAF enamel sign which was removed from a building. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



NSDAP enamel sign taken from a party office building for the Ortsgruppe Deucht-Brodersdorf. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

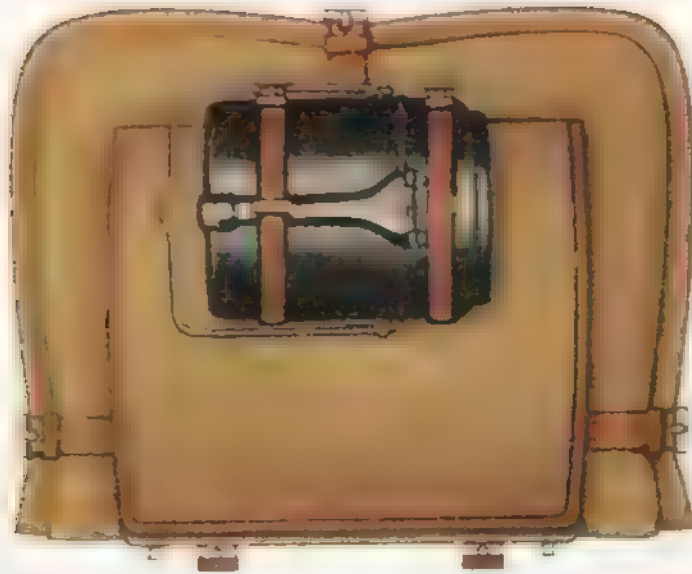


NSDAP enamel sign. These were displayed on party buildings. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



Enamel sign for the mayor of a town or city

Opposite: Enamel election sign for Adolf Hitler c. 1932. The sign reads "Our Reich President, the German front soldier"



Tornister
mit Deme, Zeltbahn und Kochgeschirr



Brotbeutel
mit Feldflasche

**Schwalbennester für Spielmanns-
und Musikzüge**

Spielmannszugführer

Spielmann

Musiker



Ortsgruppe



Kreis



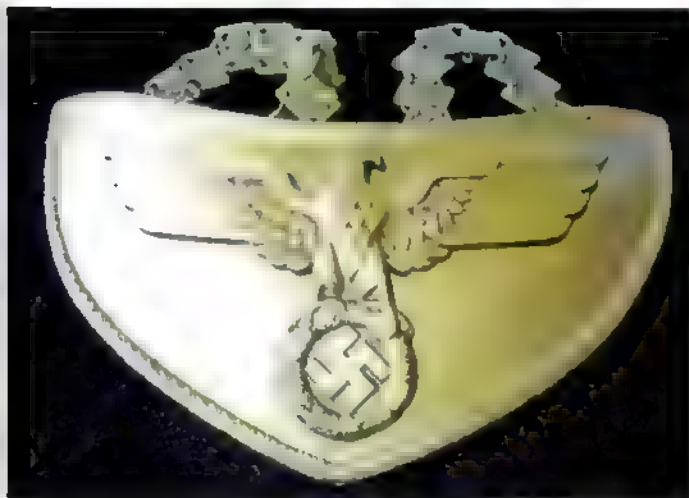
Gau

Tafel 28

Book plate from 1943 "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" showing "swallow's nests" at the Gau, Kreis, and Ortsgruppe level.



RZM Standardmuster pattern set of 'swallow's nests' for Reich level Musiker (Musician), wartime design. The only Reich level musica. units were assigned to the three Ordensburg schools



NSDAP flag bearer gorget.



NSDAP Bandolier for Orts level, used to carry party flags by Standart bearer



Ehrenwaffe
des Politischen Leiters



Pistolenhänge
35 mm breit in Leder

2. Ausführung 40 mm breit
goldfarben gealcht



Brustschild
für Fahnenträger



Brustschild
für Sitzesdienst



Bandelier
für Fahnenträger der Acelstellung
(Deutscher Gruppe, helles Braun mit hellblauer Einfassung)



Fangschnur
zum Paradebienstand

Polka Leader sports shorts.



el inside sports shorts.



ts shirt cloth eagle





**Politischer Leiter
im Sportanzug**



**Politischer Leiter
im Trainingsanzug**

Tafel 15

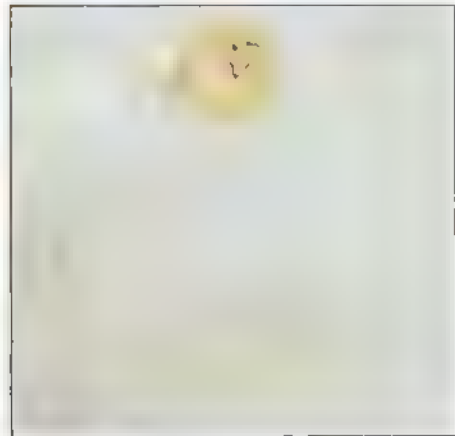
Medals and Regalia

Left: Small metal Adolf Hitler bust on a white veined black marble base. Such busts often adorned the offices of Political Leaders.

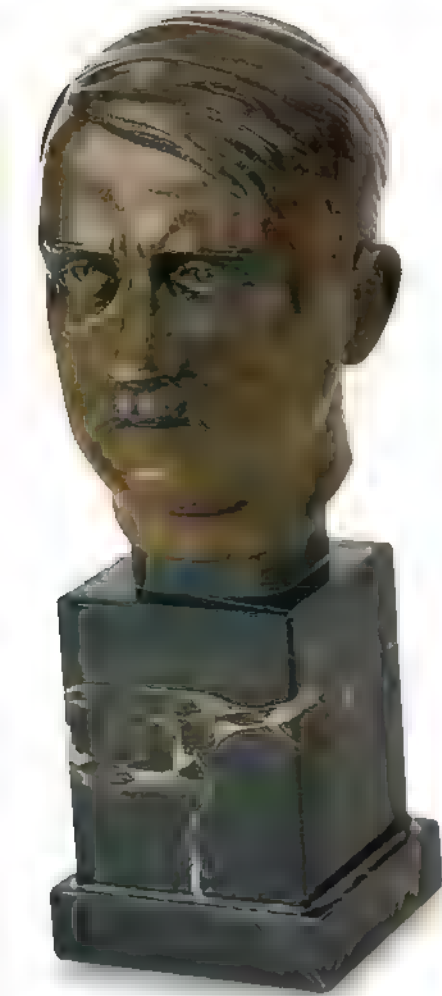
Bottom left: Life size Hitler bust on black marble base. This kind was often displayed in government buildings.



Above: "Der Führer" porcelain by Willy Exner. Below: "Rosenthal" trademark to reverse porcelain painting.



Left: Bronze metal "Nürnberg-style" desk eagle on a mottled marble base; a popular decorator in Political leader offices.

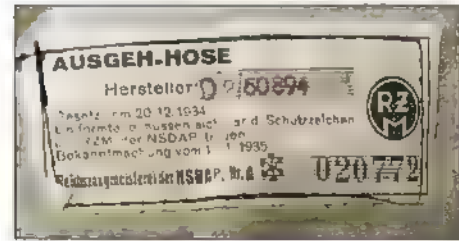


Uniforms of the NSDAP



Left: A pair of very rare straight legs black dress pants worn by NSDAP officials with their gold or white summer dress uniforms. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Below: Close up of the RZM issue tag inside the dress pants. Courtesy of Bruce Beck



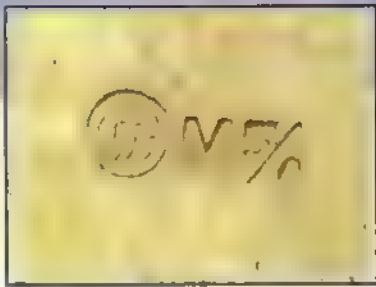
Reverse of metal eagle device used on collar tabs.



NSDAP metal cape clasp device



RZM tagged metal devices for Befehlsleiter and Sonderbeauftragte collar tabs



Above: Metal hoister device for dress ring. Inset. Reverse of device showing RZM mark

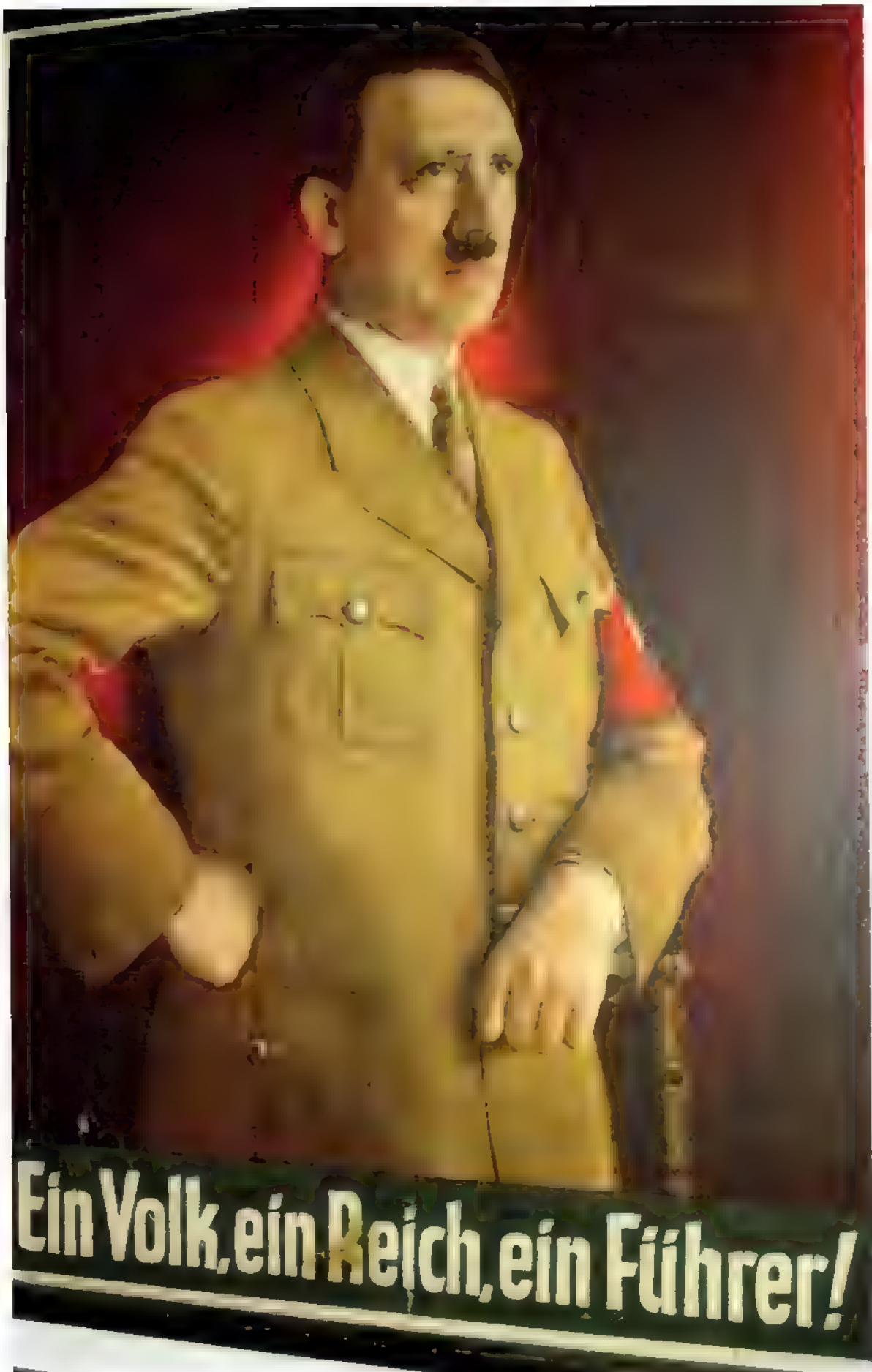


Above NSDAP honor weapon (Ehrenwaffe) worn by Political Leaders who were qualified to carry them

Right: Political Leaders had to qualify in order to carry the honor weapon and were issued a proficiency booklet authorizing the wear and use of it

Opposite: Period poster of Adolf Hitler





PERIOD PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS



Above: The seven editions of the "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP", 1936-1943, along with the 1935 Party Statistics and 1938 Gau and Kreis map and statistics book. Note the "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP" was published in 1936, three times in 1937, 1938, 1940, and 1943.

Right: Block and Zellenleiter handbook, c. 1936





"Der Hoheitsträger", a special periodical for NSDAP Political Leaders, which was published by ROL Dr Ley. Note these were for Political Leaders only and each one was serial numbered on the back to account for them.



Various issues of "Der Schulungsbrief", a monthly publication of the NSDAP, also published by the ROL



Editions of the Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch (National Socialist Yearbook) for 1933, 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1943.

Right: Protective leather case for a unique presentation folio to Gauleiter Josef Grohé from the NSD-Studentenbund of Gau Köln-Aachen.

Below: Presentation pages of the special folio to Gauleiter Grohé, 6 November 1937.





Four hand-lettered parchment pages of the unique presentation to Gauleiter Grohe listing the Ten Laws of the German Student

Below, left: Presentation document given to Adolf Hitler by Gauleiter Josef Wagner. The front cover has an image of Germany in a shaded format, with the specific Gau being identified in red. Right: The first page of the document identifying this as being from the Gau Westfalen Süd. Courtesy of Bruce Beck





The proclamation done in calligraphy stating the Gau accomplishments and signed by Gauleiter Wagner Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Right: Period picture of Gauleiter Dr Alfred Meyer of the Gau Westfalen-Nord

Opposite: Period picture of Gauleiter Julius Streicher of Franken





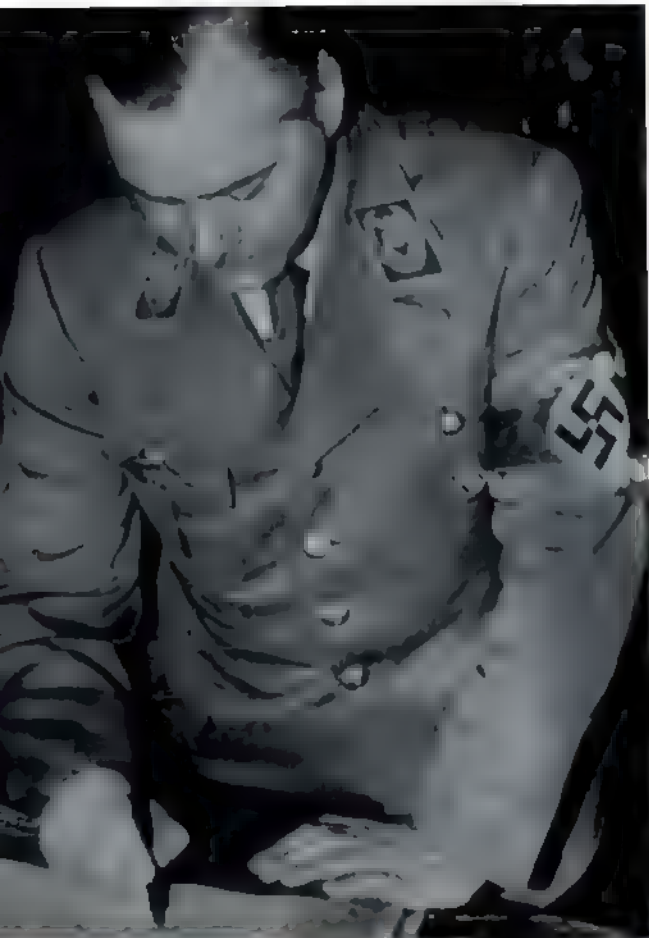


Above: A high quality presentation edition of "Mein Kampf" done in vellum. *Courtesy of Bruce Beck*

Top right: Stationary taken from Reichsleiter Bormann's office. *Courtesy of Bruce Beck*

Right: Two pieces of stationary taken from Reichsleiter Bormann's office. *Courtesy of Bruce Beck*





Left: Reichsleiter Alfred Rosenberg Courtesy of Clyde Davis

Middle: A letter signed by Reichsminister Syess-Inquart to Reichsleiter Fieber regarding the promotion to SS-Obergruppenführer initiated in green pencil by Heinrich Himmler Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Right: A letter signed by Gauleiter Murr to Reichsführer Himmler regarding his promotion to SS-Obergruppenführer initiated in green pencil by Heinrich Himmler Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Reichsminister Dr. Hans Frank Berlin-Doberlin, 4. April 1939.
Reizettel Nr. 1-4

Sehr geehrter Parteigenosse Fieber!

Für die so liebenswürdigen Wünsche zur Geburt unseres Sohnes Nicklas bitte ich Sie zugleich im Namen meiner Frau, unseren herzlichsten Dank entgegenzunehmen.

Wir haben uns aufrichtig über Ihr Gedächtnis gefreut.

Heil Hitler!
Hans Frank

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei
Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollern

Der Gauleiter Stuttgart, den 2. Februar 1942.

Herrn
Reichsführer SS Himmler
Führerhauptquartier.

Lieber Parteigenosse Himmler!

Über meine von Führer am 30. Januar 1942 ausgesprochene Beförderung zum SS-Obergruppenführer habe ich mich aufrichtig gefreut. Ich danke auch Ihnen dafür und für die freundlichen Wünsche, die Sie mir zu dieser Beförderung ausgesprochen haben.

Mit kameradschaftlichen Grüßen und
Heil Hitler!
Ihr

WIEN 1. 12. 39.

RECHENSTATER
DR ARTHUR SEYSS-INOART

Bekanntes Parteiangehöriger 1 2 3 4

Ich bin froh, dass Sie die Einladung zur
... ..
... ..
... ..

1. 12. 1939

Heil Hitler!

A. Seyss-Inquart

SALZBURG, 10. Dez. 1939.
RECHENSTATER

DER GAULEITER

19. DEZ 1939

An den
Reichskommissar Gauleiter Josef Bürckel,
Wien, Reichs-Parlament.

Lieber Parteigenosse Bürckel!

Es würde mir richtig vorkommen, wenn anlässlich des
Weihnachtsfestes ungefähr die Hälfte der in Lachau Inver-
nantierten des Jahres 1939 ausgelassen wären, und zwar
sollten dies die kleineren Leute sein, während die politischen
Ruhesührer noch arbeitsfähig blieben.

Ich möchte aber nicht allein vorgehen, sondern gebe
die Anregung an Sie, es nur zu entscheiden können, ob eine
solche Aktion für die ganze Ostmark politisch an Platz ist
oder nicht.

Heil Hitler!

Bürckel

Wien, den 10. Dez. 1940

Josef Bürckel
Gauleiter

Herrn
Bürgermeister
Fiebler
Königsbrunn

Sehr verehrter Parteigenosse Fiebler!

Für die mir übermittelten Grüße und Wünsche herzlich
vieler Erinnerung aus Reichstatthalter danke ich bestens.

Heil Hitler!
Ihr
A. Seyss-Inquart

10. 12. 1940

Der Gauleiter
in Königsbrunn

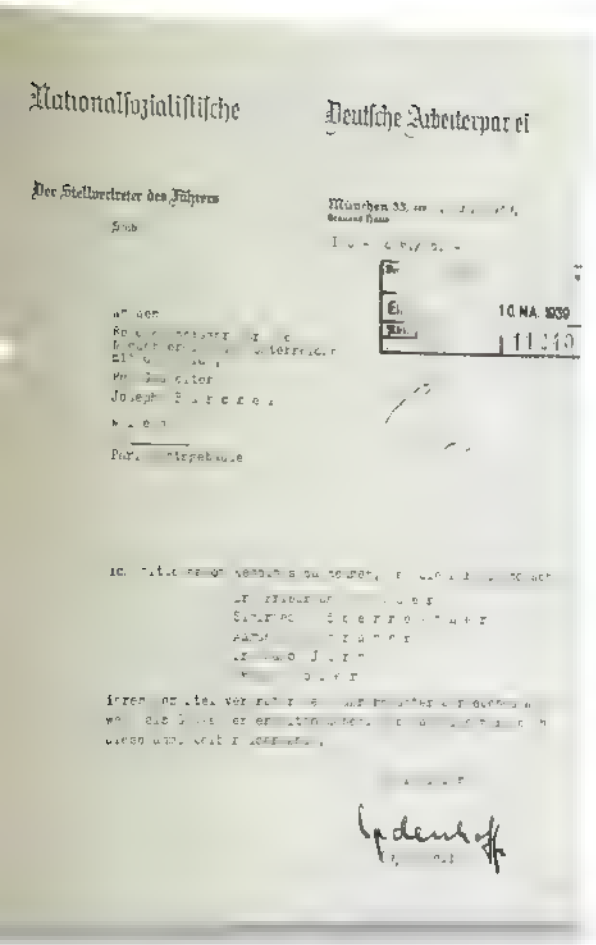
Herrn
Königsbrunn

Sehr verehrter Parteigenosse Fiebler!

Ich bin froh, dass Sie die Einladung zur
... ..
... ..
... ..

Heil Hitler!

A. Seyss-Inquart



A letter signed by Reichsminister Hans Frank to Reichsleiter Fiehler. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

A signed letter from Gauleiter Rainer. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

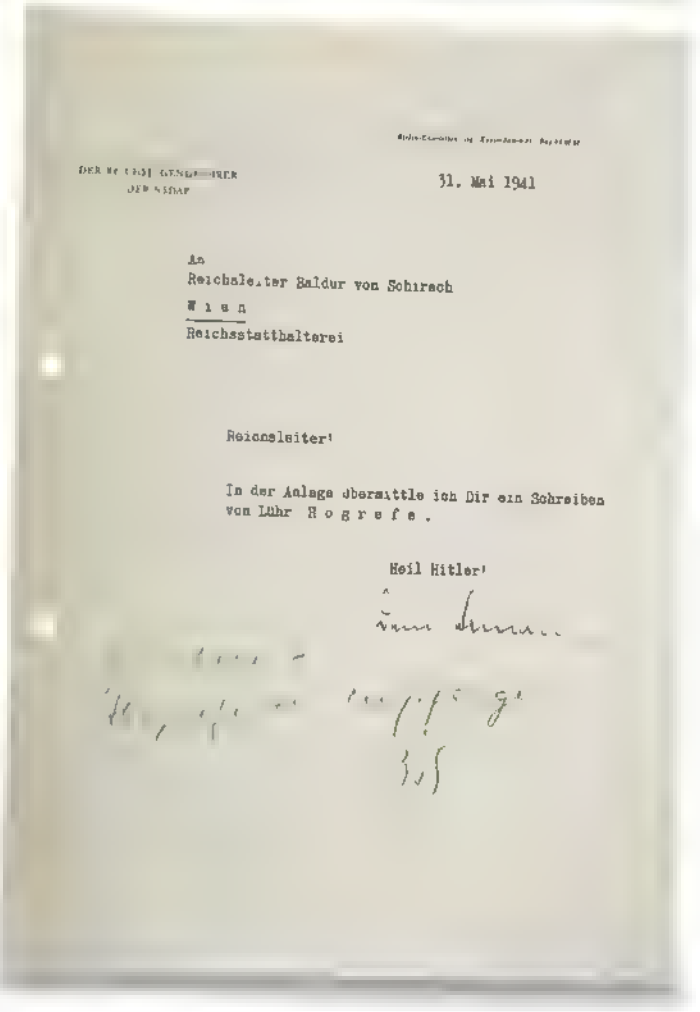
A signed letter from Gauleiter Bürkel. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

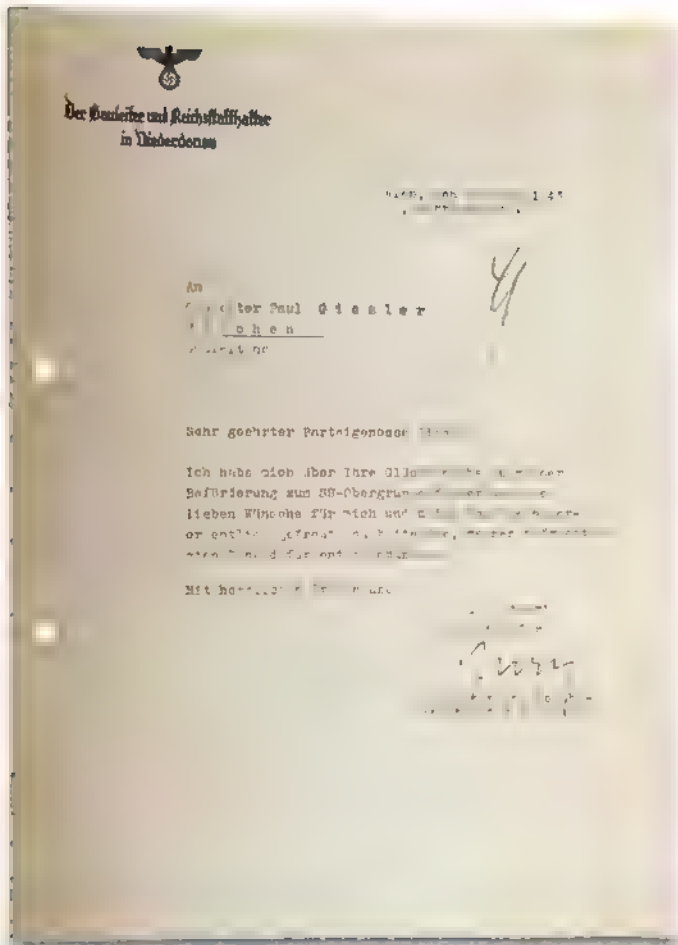
A signed letter from Gauleiter Eigruber. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

A letter signed by a high-ranking Political Leader delivering documents to Gauleiters. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

A signed letter from Gauleiter Henlein. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

A letter signed by Reichsjugendführer Axmann to Reichsleiter Von Schirach. Courtesy of Bruce Beck





Top left: A signed letter from Gauleiter Jury, Courtesy of Bruce Beck

Above: Cover of NSDAP membership booklet.

Left: Inside showing membership booklet dated 1932.

**Nationalsozialistische
Deutsche Arbeiterpartei**

(Nationalsozialistischer Deutscher Arbeiter-Verein e. V.)
Reichsleitung München, Brienerstraße 45
Fernsprecher 54901, 58744 und 56081
Postfachkonto München 23319
Briefanschrift: München 43 - Briefschab 80

**VOLKISCHER
BEOBACHTER**
Herausgeber
Adolf Hitler
Zentralorgan der NSDAP

2 Ausgaben: Reichsausgabe monatlich RM 2.90
Bayerausgabe monatlich RM 2.90
Bestellungen nehmen alle Postanstalten entgegen
Einzelnummer 20 Pfennig

Bestellungen kostenfrei vom Zentralverlag der NSDAP
Hr. Eber Nachf., G. m. b. H., München 2, NO

Ausgabe 1932

Opposite

Top: This book belonged to Alfred Arnold Sr. He was an SS-Brigadeführer and Gau Amtsleiter, with the rank of Hauptabschnittsleiter, in Württemberg-Hohenzollern. This shows his member number to be 595088; he joined the party in 1931

Bottom: Arnold served on the staff of Reichsleiter Walter Darré and Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler. Here the three are pictured, along with Arnold's wife and others at their farm. Gauleiter Wilhelm Murr is also visible behind Arnold Sr.

Nationalsoz. Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

Mitgliedsbuch Nr. 595088

für

Vor- und Zuname Alfred Arnold

Stand oder Beruf Lehrer

Wohnort (siehe auch S. 12-15) Zühlhof
im Engelfingen.

Stadtbezirk

Geburtsort 19 Juni 1888

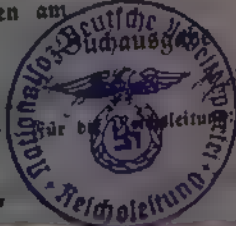
Geburtsort Ullhofen

Eingetreten am 1. Januar 1931

Ausgetreten am

Wiedereingetreten am

München, den



[Handwritten signature]
Stabschef

Personal-Ausweis



[Handwritten signature: Alfred Arnold]
Eigenhändige Unterschrift des Inhabers

Es wird hiermit bescheinigt, daß der Buchinhaber die durch obensehendes Lichtbild dargestellte Person und Mitglied der Nat.-Sozialistischen Deutschen Arbeiterpartei ist, sowie die darunter befindliche Unterschrift eigenhändig vollzogen hat.



den 10. März 1932
Ausstellung (Unterschrift)

[Handwritten signature]
Stempel

9





Gauleiter Bernhard Rust of the Gau Süd Hannover-Braunschweig pictured wearing the early style Gauleiter collar tabs. Courtesy of Bruce Beck

ABBREVIATIONS

DAF	<i>Deutsche Arbeitsfront</i> or German Labor Front
HJ	<i>Hitler Jugend</i> or Hitler Youth
NS	<i>Nationalsozialistische</i> or National Socialist
NSDAP	<i>Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei</i> or Nation Socialist German Workers Party
NSKK	<i>Nationalsozialistisches Kraftfahrkrops</i> or National Socialist Motor Corp
PL	Political Leader
PO	Political Organization
RAD	<i>Reichsarbeitsdienst</i> or Reich Work Service
ROL	<i>Reich</i> Organizational Leader
RZM	<i>Reichszeugmeisterei</i> or National material control office
SA	<i>Sturmabteilung</i> , or Storm Troops
SS	<i>Schutzstaffel</i> , or Protection Guard



Above: A time political rally. Below: A group of Political Leaders, note the PL on the right wearing a double-breasted tunic with pre-1939 tabs. Courtesy of Cyril Davis



ADDENDUM

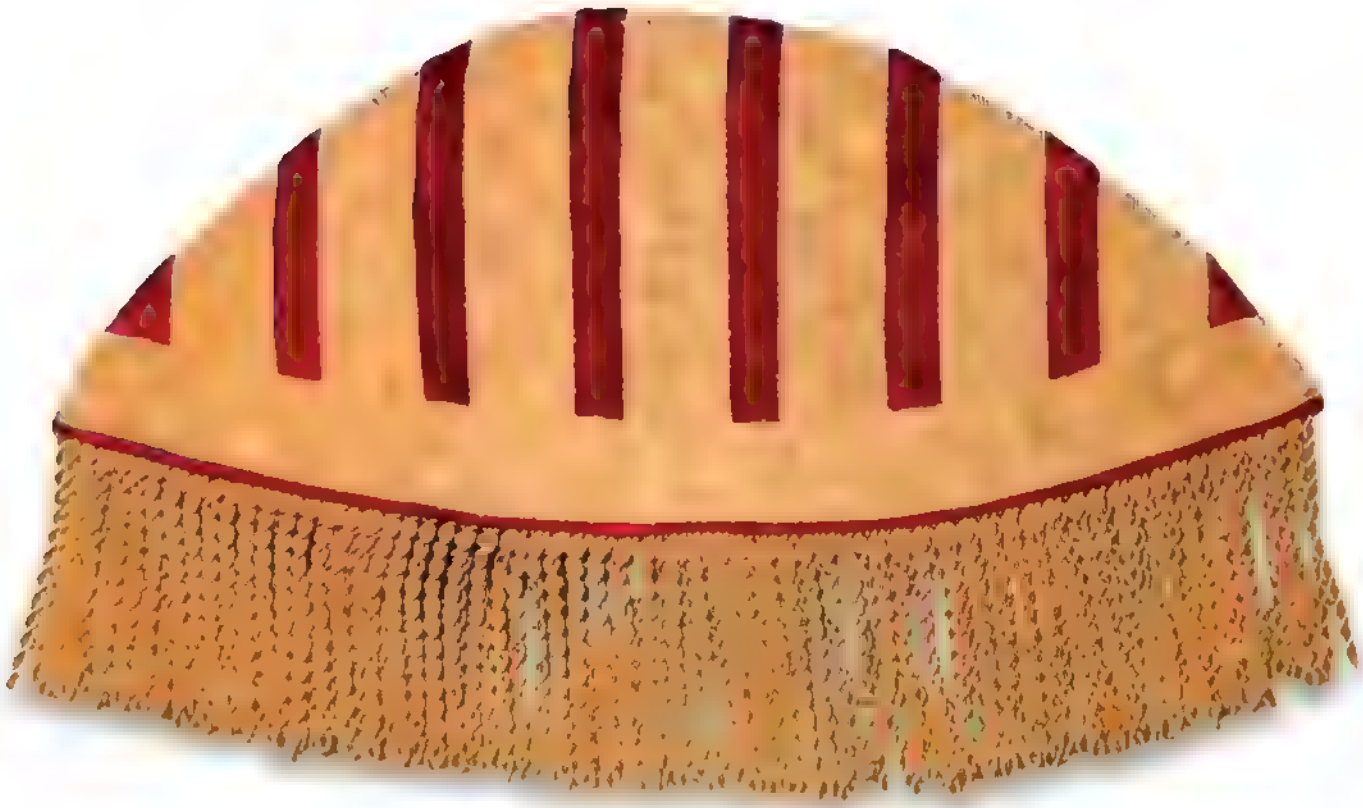
(late additions)



Pre-1939 Gauleiter tunic and visor with early claw belt. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Post-1939 style Bandmasters Gau level tunic with the Gau level swallow's nest indicating that rank (Spielmannszugführer) *Courtesy of Richard Horton*



Above: Close up view of the Gau level swallow's nest indicating the rank of Bandmasters and Drum Major Below: Reverse view of Gau level swallows nest with RZM tag Courtesy of Richard Horton





Post-1939 Gauleiter tunic and visor; Note the Blood Order ribbon in the pocket. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Close up view of the Gauleiter tabs and collar piping. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Close up view of the Gau eiter armband. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Post-1939 Gauleiter tunic and visor with brocade belt, holster, and a gilette. Note this was also a Blood Order recipient with ribbon displayed in the pocket buttonhole. *Courtesy of Richard Horton*



Reichsleiter Dr. Wilhelm Frick's double-breasted tunic. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Close up view of the collar tabs and piping to Dr Wilhelm Frick's double-breasted tunic. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Close up view of the armband on Dr Wilhelm Frick's double-breasted tunic. Courtesy of Richard Horton



Reichsleiter Dr. Robert Ley's tunic with brocade belt, holster, and aiguillette. Courtesy of Richard Horton

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